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College and School News

Alfred Farrell, brilliant **Ohio State University** graduate student, was recently elected president of the Association of Graduate Students in the department of English, an organization limited to students pursuing work on the Ph.D. level. Entering Ohio State in the fall of 1938 to secure an M.A. in English, Farrell's work so impressed the members of the department that he was recommended to the Board of Trustees for an assistantship during the school year 1939–40, another first distinction for a Negro. He was then granted a Rosenwald Fellowship to continue his graduate study during the school year 1940-41.

The Men's Dormitory Council at **Howard University** recently contributed $150 to the Class Fund Committee to aid students financially unable to attend Howard.

Dr. John W. Lawlah, Medical Director of Provident Hospital, has been appointed dean of the College of Medicine and the School of Medicine, succeeding the late Dr. Numa P. G. Adams. He will also serve the medical school as professor of Roentgenology.

Dr. Chauncey I. Cooper, acting dean of the College of Pharmacy, has been appointed dean of that college.

As part of the National Defense program, Howard is offering a free course in the chemistry of power and explosives. Persons interested should contact the Dean, School of Engineering and Architecture.

Dr. George W. Carver recently presented to the Dental Division of the John A. Andrew Clinical Society in session at **Tuskegee Institute**, a new drug for the treatment of destructive disease of the gums, pyorrhea. Its base is the well-known persimmon.

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the campus for military flying program.

Tuskegee celebrated the 25th Founders Day on April 6, with Dr. G. Lake Imes of Baltimore as principal speaker.

Dr. Forrester B. Washington, Director of the **Atlanta University School of Social Work** was elected second vice-president of the Southern Sociological Society at the close of its recent annual convention at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta. This makes him automatically chairman of the Division of Public Welfare.

This institution recently became official training center for colored YMCA workers.

The National Association of Deans and Advisers to Girls in Negro Schools held its twelfth conference at **Fisk University,** April 10-11. The annual convention of the National Association of College Women was held at Fisk, April 11-12.

Fisk's 75th anniversary celebration is being held April 29-May 4.

Atlanta University will award graduate scholarships to exceptional students in 1941-42, in Biology, Chemistry, Economics and Business Administration, Education, English, French, History, Mathematics, and Sociology. Applications should be made to the registrar.

College presidents and deans were among the many attending the Library Conference at A.U. in mid-March. Represented were 25 southern colleges.

Dr. Eliza Atkins Gleason, librarian at Talladega College, will head the new school of Library Service opening at A.U. next September. She is a graduate of Fisk, Illinois, California and Chicago, with degrees of A.B., B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. respectively, and has done library work at Louisville Municipal College, Fisk U. and Talladega. She is the youngest of the well-known Atkins family of Winston-Salem Teachers College.

Alcorn A. & M. College, the oldest of the 17 land grant colleges for Negroes will celebrate its 71st Annual Commencement on May 25-26. President Benjamin E. Mays of Morehouse College will deliver the Baccalaureate Sermon on the 25th, and President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute will deliver the Graduating Address on the 26th. Fifty-four candidates will receive the Bachelor of Arts degree. Dr. William H. Bell is President.

Clark University's new president is former dean James P. Brawley. He succeeds Dr. M. S. Davage.

Lincoln University (Pa.) has outlined a long-range program for upbuilding and plant rehabilitation to cost one million dollars. The university is soliciting further endowments, large and small.

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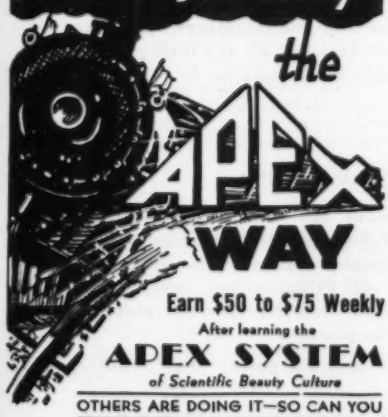

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Dillard University holds its fifth annual Arts Festival from April 27 to May 4. During April the Pi Delta Tau Epsilon Science Club sponsored its first major club project, an exhibit showing the interrelationship of the several fields of science.

The entrance gates at **Shaw University** have been completely rebuilt through the generosity of Mrs. Minnie D. Turner, English instructor, who also supplied funds for the original entrance.

The new home economics practice cottage was formerly opened on April 16. It cost $10,000 and is the first new building on the campus since 1925.

Spelman College celebrated its 60th anniversary on April 11, with President Felton G. Clark of Southern University as principal speaker.

The third annual Summer Institute on Parent Education and Child Development will be held at **Bennett College,** June 9-27, according to Dr. Alberta B. Turner, director. Problems of family nutrition will be featured.

The new Carrie Barge Residence Hall was dedicated on April 18. At the same time the cornerstone for the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel was laid. The former is the gift of the W.H.M.S. of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, while the latter is the most recent gift of Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer, New York City.

Prof. Walter R. Chivers (sociology) of **Morehouse College,** who is working towards the Ph.D. degree at New York University, has been elected to membership in the Gamma Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta National Honorary Sociology Fraternity.

Numerous conferences have been held at **West Virginia State College** since March 16 when the institution began celebrating its semi-centennial. These included a business and educational conference (Mar. 21-22); a health conference (Mar. 27); Latin American Culture conference (April 13-14); Older Boys conference (Apr. 4); Agricultural conference (Apr. 17-18); Extension Workers conference (Apr. 18); mining extension service coal mining conference (Apr. 26).

(*Continued on page* 172)

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Volume 48, No. 5 *Whole No. 365*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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THE COVER

The Sergeant Gunner with the R.A.F. pictured on the cover is a native of the British West Indian island of Jamaica. The statement that Hitler got him his job is literally true, since prior to the Nazi assault on England the Royal Air Force was not only limited to whites, but to upper class whites. Since the German Luftwaffe began dropping bombs indiscriminately on England, class lines, and to a lesser degree, color lines, have vanished and every man who can do duty against the enemy is welcomed. Significantly enough, these Negro defenders of Britain are not separated into separate fighting units, but serve with their fellow citizens wherever needed. British Negroes are functioning as air raid wardens and in the medical corps without discrimination.

•

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Thomas F. Doyle has contributed articles to *The Catholic World*, *America*, and *The Interracial Review*, and is a new contributor to THE CRISIS. He lives in New York.

James W. Ivy is the well known authority on Negro life and literature of Latin America. He is a teacher of English in Newport News high school, and lives in Phoebus, Va.

•

NEXT MONTH

Twenty years ago in the June, 1921, issue of THE CRISIS we published for the first time Langston Hughes's poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." In commemoration of that anniversary Mr. Hughes has written for THE CRISIS an article "The Need for Heroes," which will be a feature of the June number.

We will reproduce also the poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers."

There will be a piece entitled, "Dividends from Democracy" by Collins J. Reynolds.

In addition there will be another short article by George Padmore, writing from bomb-torn London. The title is "Whither the West Indies?"

We expect also to have a piece of special interest to consumers from Miss Frances Williams of the Consumers Division of the national defense program.

There will be also a feature article on Houston, Texas, which is entertaining the 32nd annual conference of the NAACP, June 24–29.

Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allan Neilson, Walter White, Charles Edward Russell, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

A Word From OPM

As a result of the pressure that has come from every section of the Negro population, the Office of Production Management in Washington issued on April 11, through its co-director, Sidney Hillman, a statement on Negro labor addressed to manufacturers holding defense contracts. The letter is so important as the first official recognition by the government of the treatment of Negro workers that THE CRISIS reprints it in full:

"To All Holders of Defense Contracts:

"Pursuant to the decision of the Office of Production Management, I wish to advise you as follows:

"Current reports on labor market developments indicate skilled labor stringency in a number of fields vital to defense production. This threatens to become more general within the next three months. Artificial factors, however, are tending to aggravate this increasingly serious situation. In some of these occupations, we are informed there are good workers available who are not being hired solely because of their racial identity.

"The Office of Production Management expects defense contractors to utilize *all* available local labor resources before resorting to the recruiting of additional labor from outside their local areas. Our programs of training and labor clearance are being established in accordance with such a policy. In many sections of the Nation there are today available labor reserves of Negro workers. Plans for their training and employment in capacities commensurate with their individual skills and aptitudes should be undertaken at once.

"In many localities, qualified and available Negro workers are either being restricted to unskilled jobs, or barred from defense employment entirely. Because of this situation, Negro workers of skills and aptitudes are in many instances not being included in many of the training programs for defense. Such practices are extremely wasteful of our human resources and prevent a total effort for national defense. They result in unnecessary migration of labor, in high rates of labor turnover, and they increase our present and future housing needs and social problems for defense workers.

"All holders of defense contracts are urged to examine their employment and training policies at once to determine whether or not these policies make ample provision for the full utilization of available and competent Negro workers. Every available source of labor capable of producing defense materials must be tapped in the present emergency.

"Yours very truly,

"SIDNEY HILLMAN
Associate Director General
Office of Production Management."

It is the contention of OPM that it does not have the power to *act* in regard to Negro employment; it may only advise. Two big factors determine employment in private industry: the employers themselves and the unions. The time may come, if the situation does not improve (both as to Negro employment and the war) when OPM will have to act on this matter. In the meantime the Negro public and its friends should understand clearly how important it is to continue the fight, and especially to continue to write to Washington. Mr. Hillman stated he had received 3,000 letters on this subject in one week. He should have received 30,000.

Nazis and Negroes

"THE editorial here in the April issue comparing the code for Negroes in the United States and the code for colored people as announced by the Nazis of Germany has aroused the esteemed *Times-Dispatch* of Richmond, Va., to call such a comparison "absurd."

We can understand the reluctance of southerners to have their treatment of the Negro classed as similar in many respects to the treatment announced as an official Nazi policy. We note, but cannot understand, the editorial position of *The Nation,* which admits that the Negro has been treated pretty badly, but which resents the idea that what is being done is of a piece with the code set forth by Hitler.

We have not seen, either in the *Times-Dispatch* or *The Nation* any denial of the parallelisms between the Nazi plan and the Southern plan. The *Times-Dispatch* wanders off into an argument that because America has murdered less than five thousand Negroes by lynching, it is better than France, which sacrificed *in war* thousands of black Senagalese troops to enable the French and English white troops to escape by Dunkerque. This comparison is not worthy of discussion.

We repeat that *nowhere* have we seen a logical denial of the difference between the Nazi system and the southern USA system on black people.

The Nation retreats behind the argument that here in America Negroes still have the right to protest.

It has always seemed to us that the people who argue this point fail to differentiate between the *declared* government of the United States on Negroes and the *actual* government. The truth is that the South has set up a government of its own on the Negro. It disdains to pay attention to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. By and large, it has won acquiescence in this policy from the rest of America. The U. S. supreme court record, with its cases of Negroes who have had to go to the highest tribunal in the land to secure the rights which should have been theirs in any police court proves our point.

When THE CRISIS speaks of the similarity of the Nazi code and the *practice* in America, we speak not of the principles of America, but of the everyday habit. And it is the everyday habit which affects the millions of Negro Americans, not the words in the Bill of Rights.

To put the final touch to our argument, the southern states are mentioned favorably not only in Hitler's *Mein Kampf,* but in several Nazi pronouncements since that party has been in power. The Nazis like the South's treatment of the Negro, the South's aversion to labor unions, the South's anti-alien prejudices, and the South's belief in the limited franchise. In other words, the South approaches, more nearly than any other section of the United States, the Nazi idea of government by a "master race" without interference from any democratic process.

We can understand the Richmond *Times-Dispatch.* An editor like Virginius Dabney must be ashamed of this similarity even while under some obligation to defend it. But we cannot understand *The Nation.*

CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL

As this issue of THE CRISIS went to press the sad news of the passing, in Washington, of Charles Edward Russell, was announced. Dr. Russell was one of the three persons chiefly responsible for the organization of the N.A.A.C.P. From its organization to the day of his death his uncompromising advocacy of unqualified opportunity for Negro Americans never wavered or weakened. Frequently he traveled from Washington to New York for board meetings in weather so inclement that board members much younger than he found it impossible to attend. Wherever and whenever Charles Edward Russell's voice could be raised on behalf of the oppressed it was raised. His biting scorn for appeasers or compromisers was a terror to those less honest and courageous. One of the great friends and champions of democracy of our time has fallen.

Gestapo in Memphis

By Thomas F. Doyle

Chief of Police Boyle, of Memphis, has become the Constitution of the United States on citizenship rights. At present he is the Himmler of the U.S.A., backed up by Fuehrer Crump

ALL has not been well of late in Memphis, Tennessee. The story, as pieced together from newspaper and other sources, failed to focus the national spotlight on the famed river port, but it has aspects nevertheless that give it claim to page one prominence. In many quarters it has provoked concern over such vital issues as civil liberties, freedom of the press, anti-Negro discrimination, and the ways of political "bosses." Blame it on fascism, paternal despotism, or outright dictatorship, the Memphis episode reeks unpleasantly in the democratic nostril.

The story has its genesis in a reform movement started over a year ago by Police Commissioner Joseph Boyle, nicknamed "Holy Joe" by underworldlings. His campaign has been unflagging and thorough. Unfortunately, Mr. Boyle's methods have created misgivings among the more civic-conscious Memphians. This has led to charges of discrimination by police toward Negroes and has accentuated Negro-white tension. In an effort ostensibly to avert racial troubles, the commissioner has opened himself to charges of politics in his dealings with interracial workers and with Negro members of the Republican Party. Violating constitutional guarantees, his officers have caused one Negro business man to quit town for the more hospitable atmosphere of Chicago. Incidental to police activities was the unwarranted searching of a Catholic priest during a drive allegedly aimed against dope peddling.

Behind these happenings loom "Boss" Edward Crump and the Democratic machine. Out-of-state newspapers have been noticeably silent over recent efforts to keep Negroes "in their place" and prevent responsible leaders from publicizing their grievances. Intimately involved in the situation is the Memphis Commission on Interracial Co-Operation, organized over seven months ago by the Memphis Ministerial Association.

Memphis: Dictator City

Memphis ranks as one of the most progressive municipalities in the South in point of material provision for its citizens. Its credit is good. In schools, parks and housing facilities, it compares favorably with most cities. Politically, however, Memphis is as un-American as any dictator-ridden country in Europe. Its citizens have everything but the right to vote and talk as they please. The popular will is what Edward Hull Crump, fiery Mississippi-born politician, ex-Congressman and ex-Mayor, considers expedient and wise. The Shelby county machine which he dominates controls 60,000 votes and is in strategic position to influence state policies as well as to determine the outcome of municipal or state elections. The poll tax ordinarily keeps the Negro from the polling booth, but when the need arises, "Boss" Crump can vote them by the carload.

When Federal Investigators have happened along, the Negro wards have been neglected and pressure put on the prosperous whites, all to the same effect, a walk-over for the Crump favorite. In thirty years the machine has never failed. Business men, society and club leaders, preachers, lawyers and even newspapermen can be regimented in ways devious and dark. Labor is carefully watched. The Red Snapper has no use for agitators and C. I. O. sit-down strikes have resulted in more than one clubbed head. Chain gang Negroes recruited to fight the Mississippi flood in 1937 chanted as they saw the wiry "Boss" don high-topped boots and go down to the levee to encourage the workers:

> "Oh, the river's up and cotton's down.
> Mister Ed Crump, he runs this town."

Nobody denies it; least of all, the "Boss" himself. Business interests, newspapers, church leaders and reform advocates have battled his machine in vain. In office nineteen times himself, Crump claims his machine has won sixty-two elections, which makes a total of eighty-two victories in all. Grown rich in the real estate field, his wealth is free from the taint of graft. His pride in Memphis is his outstanding virtue. "Memphis has a great future," he says. "We really don't know our strength. We are almost like the circus elephant tied to a small stake." He won a lifelong fight for cheap power rates when he literally forced the Memphis Power & Light Company to sell out to the city. He is all for the New Deal, which, besides TVA power, has given Memphis large low-rent housing projects, built schools, levees, streets, parks, bridges and sewers, and made provision for under-privileged children, the blind, the aged and the helpless.

Crump professes typical southern concern for Negro welfare. It is true he has secured Federal funds to build better homes and schools for the Negro half of Memphis's population. In the congested colored sections, however, complaints persist of unlighted and unpaved streets, of underpaid Negro school teachers, of lack of playgrounds and parks and of vast numbers of Negroes whose housing and hospitalization needs continue to be neglected.

On the issue of poll tax revision, he is accused of having caused Governor Prentice Cooper to back out of his promise to support the recent repeal measure in the legislature. As this is written, newspapers record the defeat in committee of the White-Hall bills to revoke the law of 1890. The machine has turned thumbs down on votes for Negroes and poor whites. But mark this: when a referendum was held in Chattanooga in 1935 on the question of a bond issue to finance a municipal electric project, the state legislature, under pressure of public ownership groups, backed by the Crump machine, enacted a law providing that, in that election, the poll tax requirement was to be eliminated.

Masses Support Crump

The great mass of Negroes are on the Crump side, but a more alert and articulate Republican minority would welcome the overthrow of the machine. Through the Reconstruction up to 1905 —the year Crump began his career in Memphis—Negroes were in the ascendancy at the city hall and were identified with every department of the government. But when the Democratic party became sacrosanct, the local Republican machine disappeared. With its disappearance began the growing estrangement between the white and Negro races. There is now no Negro officeholder in any position of trust. Patronage has passed from Negro politicians into the hands of white ward "bosses," who control large numbers of

Negro votes. The colored section today is policed by white men with the aid of Negro stool pigeons. Various city departments employ hundreds of Negroes in positions calling for manual work, but the only white collar Negro workers to be seen in the city hall are the head janitor and the Mayor's messenger.

In Federal hall, where the Negro leader, Robert Church, once held forth, the picture is somewhat brighter. Out of 150 mail carriers, 120 are colored, and there are also 22 colored substitutes. Of the twenty special delivery boys, eleven are Negroes. Other Negroes are employed as mechanics, elevator boys and unskilled laborers. Not one Negro, however, has been able to secure a clerkship in the post office, where every executive position is filled by a white man.

Memphis enjoys a triple distinction as being the largest city in the state, the cradle of the blue songs, and as having within its borders the most famous thoroughfare in Negro America. This is Beale street, center of Negro nightlife, but a hive of bustling respectability by day. Negro bankers, insurance officials, barbers, dentists, with a sprinkling of Jewish pawnbrokers and traders, and a zealous group of Negro ministers cater to its material and religious needs. It is the pastors' complaint that Beale street harbors too many camouflaged bordellos and that gambling and drinking too often cause knifings and murders among nocturnal habitues. Beale street has a reputation that keeps Negro leaders in a state of constant anxiety. Policing is mostly in the hands of Mississippians, who are known to be uncompromisingly stern in their handling of Negro miscreants. In this area more than any other, charges have been made of discrimination and undue severity in the treatment of Negro suspects.

Statement Arouses Fury

During the short absence of Commissioner Boyle in Washington last November, the Commission on Interracial Co-Operation issued a statement to Mayor Walter Chandler embodying a complaint against the intimidation of two Negroes, Dr. J. B. Martin, druggist, and Elmer Atkinson, operator of a pool hall. The statement was not intended as a blanket indictment of police activities in the Beale street neighborhood, but pointed out that the unfair treatment accorded the two Negroes was inspired by political motives. Both of these Negroes, it was well known, had failed to support the Crump machine in the recent elections.

Immediately on his return to the city, Commissioner Boyle issued a furious reply to the commission's statement. It went far beyond the question in dispute. "This is a white man's country," he asserted, condemning racial charges emanating from "discontented elements." He singled out for particular mention four of the commission's members—James C. Dickerson, Weldron Beasley, Z. L. Bonner and Louis O. Swingler. "These men," he said, "run Negro newspapers here in Memphis. For many months these papers have been carrying on a campaign with inflammatory articles calculated to disrupt the present friendly relations between the white and Negro races in this community."

The "inflammatory articles" complained of were articles originally published in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia newspapers. Explained Mr. Swingler subsequently: "I wasn't conscious of anything appearing in our columns which might make for race hatred." Regarding an article on the Jim Crow law, Editor Beasley commented: "I want to say that the purpose of the article to which Mr. Boyle referred . . . was for the opposite purpose, as my idea was to show to our people that after all conditions are no better between Cairo and Chicago than they are in the Southland, and that the way to improve these conditions is to improve our conduct and deportment."

Freedom of Press?

Mr. Boyle branched out in an attack on what he considered the "presumptuous ingratitude of these Negro editors." Memphis Negroes pay less than 5 per cent of the city's taxes, he said, and the taxes they do pay would not even "pay for what is spent for Negro health at John Gaston hospital—to say nothing of the Shelby county hospital and the insane asylum." Not a single Memphis newspaper had the temerity to reply that the low contribution to the city treasury by Memphis Negroes (almost half the population, remember!) was due to the very excellent reason that they are the lowest paid and most poverty-stricken section of the people, or that an adequate concentration on Negro health needs would reduce the numbers who were forced to seek hospitalization, particularly for mental ailments caused by neglected syphiletic infection. Elvy E. Callaway, a southern sociologist, has written: "Venereal disease is the great blight and curse of the Negro of the South. It limits his physical, mental and moral strength and capacity. The white man is responsible for his affliction with this curse, and if the white man shall be forgiven at the bar of future public opinion for this sin, he will acknowledge his responsibility to lead the movement in freeing the Negro of it."

Denounces Preachers

Three "discontented" Negro preachers, the Rev. George A. Long, pastor of the Beale Street Baptist church; the Rev. Howard Perry, and the Rev. Mr. Gibson, were denounced for allegedly objecting to "white supremacy." "I will deal with them," Mr. Boyle threatened, "if they continue their present activities." The Rev. Mr. Long subsequently replied that he had never made any statement concerning Negro equality. "The whole thing," he added, "is over the fact that I was active politically during the recent campaign, but not on the side of the political administration. All three of the preachers mentioned in Commissioner Boyle's letter were active in the recent campaign and that's the reason they were singled out."

The most vital part of Mr. Boyle's letter concerned Dr. Martin, the Negro drug store owner. It contained libelous references which the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* printed, but which other papers blue-pencilled. Before discussing the case of Dr. Martin, these points need to be made clear. The existence of police discrimination against the Negroes of Memphis has long been recognized. It was entirely within the right of the Commission on Interracial Co-Operation to protest against it. The Commission contains an equal representation of Negroes and whites, and its work aims at furthering rather than disrupting friendly relations between the two races. Mr. Boyle flatly refused to meet with the Commission to discuss interracial problems. Fear of official reprisal has so far silenced any widespread protest against unfair treatment of Negroes. Last December, the *Memphis Press-Scimitar,* in a refreshingly outspoken editorial, assailed loose talk about race relations, and called upon public officials to enforce the law fairly and firmly. "Let every man, proud or humble, whatever his place in life or his race, know that he will be secure in his property and his liberty if he does right. That kind of policy will take care of race relations and every other kind of relation." On the labor question, sore spot in many southern cities, the editorial said: "Let not politics wink at the manhandling of labor leaders—or the manhandling of employers or their representatives or dissenting workers. Let both CIO and AFL have equal protection of the law and neither the protection of politics."

Mr. Boyle's letter affords proof that freedom of the press is not welcomed in the bailiwick of "Boss" Crump, where Democratic ascendancy depends upon exploitation of Negro voters. "I believe in the principle of free speech," Mr. Crump has said. "Of course, I don't mean the kind of free speech that gives

a man the right to yell 'fire' in a crowded theater." Many anti-Negro politicians have said much the same thing, implying that to demand Negro equality is tantamount to inciting to riot and civic disorder. Apparently no Negro editor may hereafter discuss unfair treatment of his race in any manner whatsoever. The recent developments prove that isolated protests will be stifled promptly and ruthlessly lest others be tempted to follow suit. As to the role of the press in fighting community evils, an enlightening contribution was made by Edward J. Meeman, editor of the *Memphis Press-Scimitar,* to the symposium on the freedom of the press conducted by the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* a few years ago.

"If American newspapers," Mr. Meeman said, "have not done all they could, it can also be said that the American citizenry has not fully used the opportunity which a free press affords for activity for democracy. How often have they left an editor standing alone for a principle which privately they would agree was right—but not publicly. How often have citizens presumed that one man, or a handful of them, could have no access to the public through the press for a good cause, when, as a matter of fact, the free newspaper was as available to them as to its own editor. How many American citizens have thought it beneath their dignity to write a letter to the editor, though the readers' column is of the very essence of democracy, and is as widely read as the editorial column itself? How many business men have punished the independent press because it did not do as they wished, not realizing that they were hurting their best friend, which alone stood between them and an actually or potentially oppressive government?"

No letter, so far as the writer could ascertain, appeared in the Memphis newspapers protesting against Mr. Boyle's attitude. A reader of the *Nashville Tennesseean,* in the December 30 issue of that paper, seemed to be alone protestant. This reader quoted excerpts from the writings of Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln to condemn the commissioner's "fascistic appeal to the baser elements in us in his declaration of racial bigotry."

Persecution of Dr. Martin

No protests of a public nature came from the people of Memphis over the illegal measures instituted by Commissioner Boyle late in October against Dr. Martin, Negro Republican leader, obviously for refusing to support the Democratic party in the Presidential campaign. When Dr. Martin, despite warning, refused to call off a Republican rally ten days before election, police officers were stationed at the two entrances to his store to search every customer entering the premises. This lasted for over a month, and eventually Dr. Martin was forced to abandon his business and go to Chicago. The pretext advanced by the commissioner was that his men were searching for "dope." Even children hurrying in to buy ice cream or candy were searched. To make the procedure seem more regular, similar tactics were used against Almer Atkinson, operator of a Beale street pool hall, who had been reported convicted of a narcotic charge in 1926. A Franciscan priest, pastor of a Negro parish, was searched and ordered to remove his shoes when he attempted to enter the hall in response to a summons by the owner's wife, who thought his presence would prevent trouble.

"How do the people of Memphis feel about this," asked the *Knoxville News-Sentinel's* reporter. "Well, openly, they appear to feel nothing; they're used to Crump methods. Privately, they think it's shameful. They know the search is not legal. The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures."

Federal Investigation(?)

Complaints having been lodged with the Department of Justice; Colonel Amos W. W. Woodcock, special assistant to the Attorney General, paid a visit to Memphis to investigate. On his return he was understood to have reported that Commissioner Boyle did not deny that the two Negro businessmen had been under police surveillance and harassment. The Commission's plea was that the methods used by his officers were part of a move to "clean up the city." Apparently, that satisfied the investigator, and he was content to point out to Mr. Boyle the meaning of the Federal civil rights statute and the consequences of its violation.

The question was asked: was this a thorough and conscientious investigation? Colonel Woodcock admitted he did not seek to establish the motive for Mr. Boyle's actions. Furthermore, he did not seek or discuss with the Negro complainants the charges they had brought against the police department. On his own admission, he listened to only one side of the case. The day after the announcement of his findings appeared, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, Birmingham, Alabama, made an appeal for Federal investigation of alleged race discrimination and revealed also that it would maintain a lobby in the Tennessee state capitol "until the poll tax is killed." "Obviously," the conference said, "the people of Tennessee are for poll tax repeal, but time after time shifty politicians have betrayed the people of Tennessee after being elected on a repeal platform."

Amending an earlier report, the *Memphis Press-Scimitar* explained that Colonel Woodcock, in the course of his inquiries, did not visit Mr. Crump. The correction followed receipt of a protesting letter from the Memphis leader, in which he insinuated that Howard Lee, executive secretary of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare, had trumped up the charges of Negro discrimination in the *Press-Scimitar's* offices. Asserting his belief that Mr. Lee was a Communist, Mr. Crump went on: "We have known the Negroes always, know their problems, and are going to defend the right thinking, working, honest Negro, and they are ninety-five per cent in majority; and at the same time we want to keep them worth defending. We want to live together in peace, faith and confidence. We are not going to let the *Press-Scimitar* or any New York or other foreign influence interfere with us . . . the agitators and saboteurs under the guise of teachers, lecturers, farm and industrial workers, with their vicious propaganda, will not be tolerated by the officials of this community."

In a prompt retort, Mr. Lee intimated that the Shelby "Boss" had based his charge of communism on a "scurrilous" pamphlet emanating from Fascist sources and described by the *Birmingham News* as the "slimy" product of one Joseph E. Kamp. He alluded to Mr. Crump's "top-notch" record of beating up union organizers and intimidating every move toward political freedom by the people of Memphis. He cited the recent picketing of business establishments of Willkie supporters and the threats against Negro editors as typical examples of how Mr. Crump's machine works. "The national labor laws should be enforced in Memphis and beating of labor organizers and intimidation of trade unionists must be stopped," Mr. Lee said. "Until such time as these things come to pass, the question of 'who is undermining democracy' can well be directed to Mr. Crump and his machine."

Fails to Return

"Colonel Woodcock," Mr. Lee added, "should have called upon Mr. Crump, just as he should have called on all the parties concerned and particularly, he should have called upon those parties who have suffered at the hands of the Memphis police. We have, therefore, requested the Attorney General to return Colonel Woodcock to Memphis to complete the investigation and to

(*Continued on page 172*)

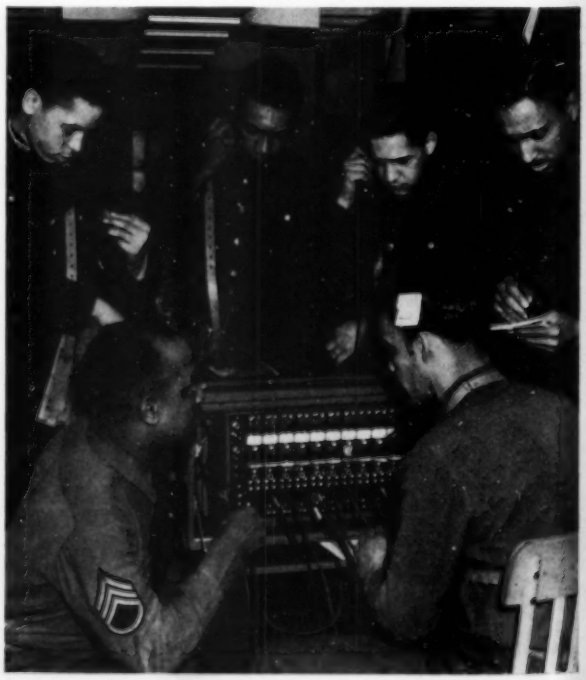
Pictures of the 184th and 349th Field Artillery Regiments

On this and the following four pages are pictures of the 349th Field Artillery, an entirely new regiment being trained at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the 184th Field Artillery (formerly the 8th Illinois National Guard) being trained at Fort Custer, Michigan. Above, loading a 75 mm. gun at Fort Custer. Below, using field telephone at Fort Sill

Lt. Col. Oscar Randall of the 184th studies map problem with his officers

Examining gun breech at Ft. Sill

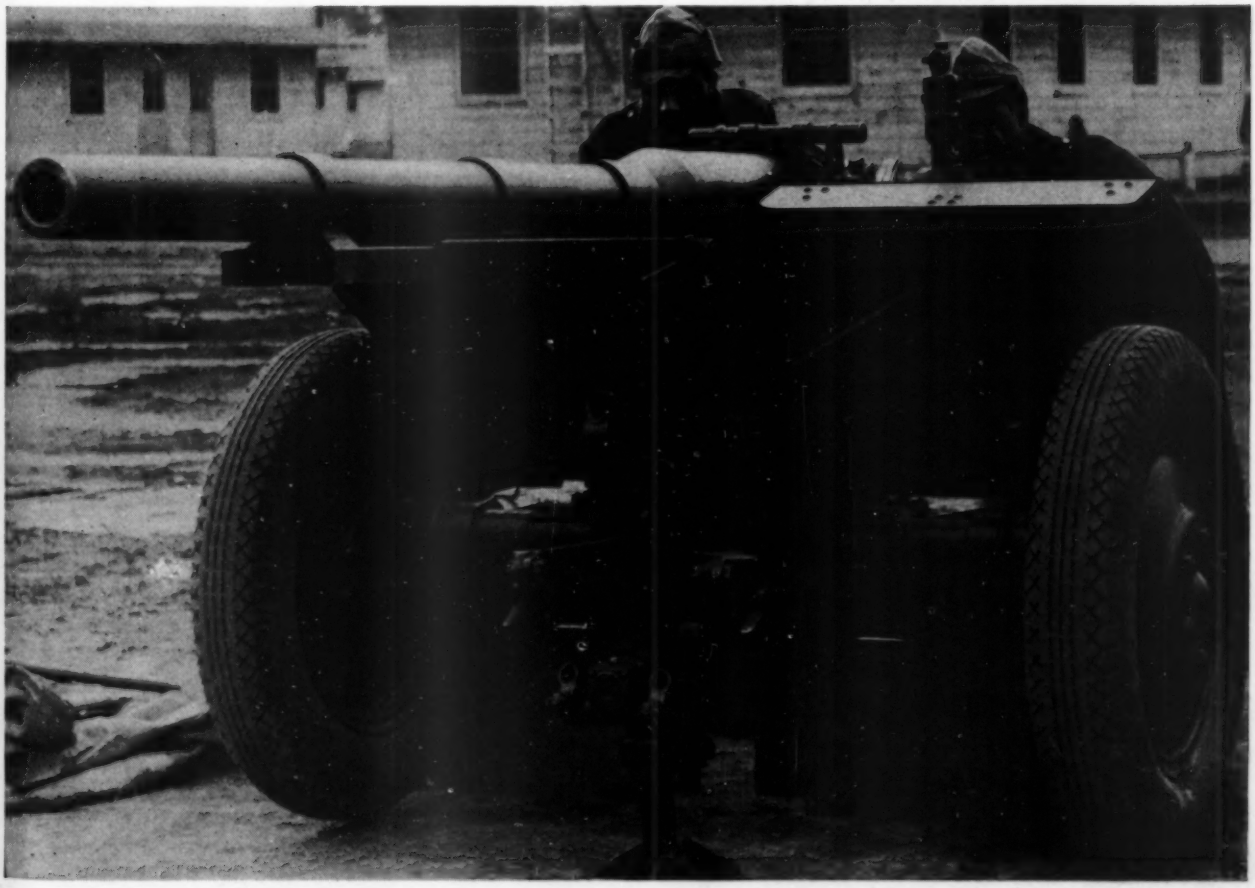
At Ft. Custer switchboard

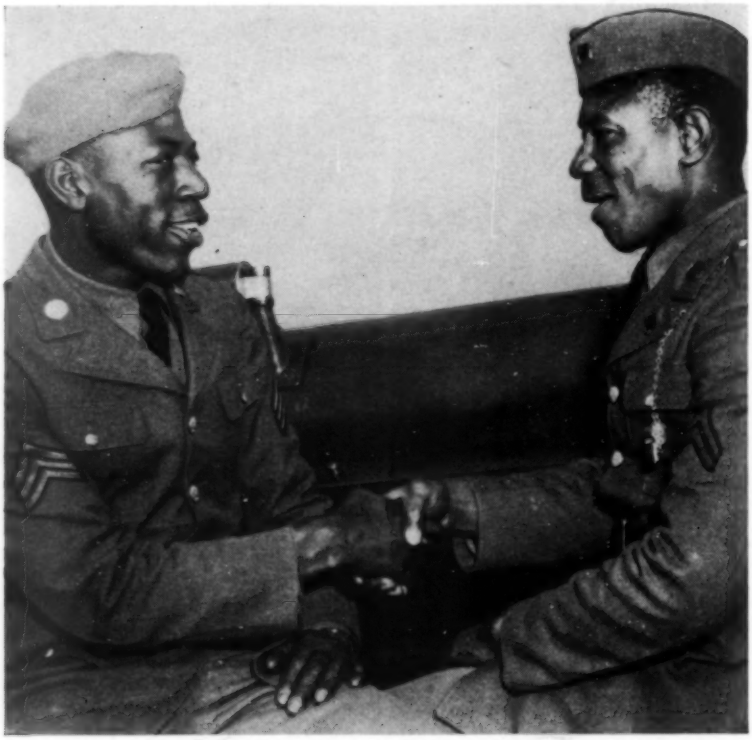


Sgt. Outley of the 349th

Col. Sands, Commander of the 349th

Chicagoans of the 184th at 75 mm. gun





Promotion day at Ft. Sill

349th men using transit

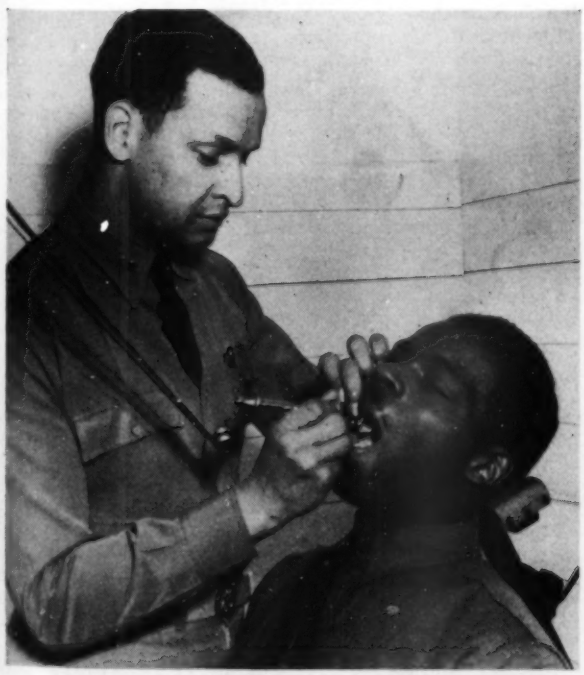
A 349th tractor drags a big gun

Erecting a BC scope, Ft. Sill

Band practice at Ft. Custer

All photographs on these pages by U. S. Army Signal Corps

The dentist at Ft. Custer



Loading 155 mm. gun at Ft. Custer

Negro Influence In Brazil

By James W. Ivy

Casa-Grande & Senzala (Formação da familia brasileira sob o regimen de economia patriarchal). Por Gilberto Freyre. 3a. Edição. Rio de Janeiro: Schmidt-Editor, 1938. XXXI+365 pp. Illustração. 20$000. (About $10 U. S. Money.)

The Big-House and the Compound: Formation of the Brazilian Family Under a Patriarchal Economic System.

IT is not often that a sociological study has about it the earmarks of literature, yet this is certainly true of the *Big-House.* Here is a book which turns sociology into delightful literature in the very best sense of that word. The style is non-technical, witty, charming, humorous. Our author can even be Rabelaisian at times. And even his footnotes, usually the last refuge of the incompetent, are illuminating. Freyre has, of course, been severely criticized by his Brazilian colleagues for his *anecdotica* and "lack of seriousness," but along with the criticism has gone the fulsome praise of scholars in other parts of the world. Dr. Richard F. Pattee, who certainly knows his Latin America, has given it as his considered opinion that the *Casa-Grande* is "one of the most extraordinary studies of the Negro in modern times." Ernesto Montenegro concurs in the same opinion when he writes that "the work of Gilberto Freyre has most of those pieces of dynamic writing destined to exert lasting influence on the intellectual and social development of a country."

Such praise naturally arouses curiosity about the author. Who is this Freyre? Dr. Gilberto Freyre, to give him his proper title, is a Pernambucano, that is a native of the Brazilian state of Pernambuco. He was educated in his native country and the United States, doing advanced work in anthropology at Columbia University under Dr. Boas. His doctorate is from this institution. He has also been a sometime visiting professor at Stanford University in California; he has traveled and studied in our Deep South and hence knows our Negro problem at first hand. He has also visited and studied in Portugal and Africa. He was also the organizer and moving spirit in the Afro-Brazilian Congress of Recife out of which came those two illuminating volumes published under the titles of *Estudos Afro-brasileiros* (1934) and *Novos Estudos Afro-brasileiros* (1937). He has in the meantime authored two scholarly studies which are almost as searching as the *Casa,* his *Nordeste: Aspectos da influência da canna sobre a vida e a paizagem do nordeste do Brasil* (1937) and his *Sobrados e Mucambos* (1936).

The edition of the *Casa* under review is the third, the first having appeared in '34. The materials of the first and second editions have been condensed and the book pruned of its many errors; whereas the first edition had 517 pages, the third has only 365. The number of chapters are, however, the same. Their headings are "General Characteristics of Portuguese Colonization in Brazil: the Formation of an Agrarian, Slave, and Hybrid Society," "The Indian in the Formation of the Brazilian Family," "The Portuguese Colonizer: His Antecedents and Predispositions," with the two concluding chapters devoted to a study of "The Negro Slave in the Sexual and Family Life of the Brazilian."

Negro An Asset

What gives peculiar significance to the *Casa-Grande* is our author's frank admission that the Negro was a definite asset in the formation of the Brazilian people. Imagine, if you can, an American casually remarking as Freyre does in his fourth chapter that "Every Brazilian, even the fair-haired white ones, has in his soul, if not in both body and soul, a tincture of Negro blood or a trace of the Negro spirit." Proof of this assertion our author shows is written all over the face of Brazil. It is evident in Brazilian dance and song, in Brazilian speech and folklore, in Brazilian cuisine and clothes. This Negro influence shows in every aspect of Brazilian life even unto the highest reaches of their culture. Many of that countries greatest intellects and men are of Negro origin; men like Machado de Assis, Nilo Peçanha, Tobias Barreto, Pedro Americo, Clavo Bilac, and many others who would be a credit to any country, are either *mestiços* or of Negro ancestry.

That the Portuguese and Brazilians have shown themselves more hospitable to the absorption of colored blood is a fact that has been made much of by Nordic critics of the Portuguese but one which has been seldom analyzed sympathetically. The common characteristics of the Portuguese may be defined as a relative ethnic tolerance for all peoples regardless of color, a greater emphasis on culture and religion instead of class and color, and a diluted racial conceit. There is the further essential distinction between the Portuguese and other Europeans in the fact that the Portuguese though partaking of the characteristics of both Europe and Africa belong wholly to neither. The only thing that has mattered with the Portuguese is assimilation to Portuguese culture. This is why Portugal over the centuries has been able to absorb such a bewildering variety of races and peoples.

Ancient Iberian civilization was based on the culture of a folk (the Iberians) who had come originally from North Africa, and in the course of centuries this same culture managed to absorb Romans, Visigoths, Carthaginians, Suevi, Jews, Vandals, Ionian Greeks, Mohammedans, Moors, and Negroes. At one time the southern provinces of the country, Algrave, Alemtejo, and Estramadura, were almost entirely Negro. And remember that these provinces take up nearly one half the area of the country. There were so many Negroes in Lisbon in the sixteenth century that Clenardo remarked that they outnumbered the whites.

Similar to Southern U.S.A.

It need hardly be said then that when the Portuguese turned to the colonization of the American tropics that they were a mongrel people with a large dosage of Moorish, Negro, and other colored bloods. They also brought with them more than a century of experience in the colonizing of the tropics in Asia and Africa. They also brought with them the technical experience which they had acquired in the exploi-

(*Continued on page* 169)

Stooges for Ford

The union won the first round in the battle with the great Ford empire April 11, despite the desperate attempt of the company to use Negroes to break the first strike in the plant's history

Al Johnson (left), a committee member of the glass plant at River Rouge, pictured with other strikers

WHEN, a little after midnight April 1, the long expected strike of the United Automobile Workers (CIO) was called against the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, it was inevitable that the Negro would be prominent in the struggle.

For many years Ford has been the largest employer of Negro labor in the automobile industry. Out of a total of 85,000 employees at the River Rouge plant, Ford customarily hires between ten and fourteen thousand Negroes. Although the company has not hired Negro workers in any of its many assembly plants outside of Detroit, its policy in the motor capital has built for it enormous good will among the Negro public in Detroit and in Michigan and in the country generally.

By means of this big payroll (a minimum of $60,000 a day) and constant propaganda among the white collar leaders of Detroit Negro opinion, the Ford company undoubtedly hoped to build an important section of defense against the day of the showdown with the union.

For months the UAW-CIO had been working at organizing Ford employees and the report is that on April 1 it had succeeded in enrolling more than half the Ford workers, including some 3,000 Negroes.

It is charged by the union that the Ford company, in anticipation of the

(*Continued on page* 171)

Detroit Youth Council sound truck

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Members of strikers families preparing food for the pickets

Poetry Contest Results

The winning poem in the contest which closed February 1 was "Sunset" by D. Sebastian Schiffer, printed in the April CRISIS, page 118.

Seven poems were designated for honorable mention by the judges. They follow in order:

(First)

Communion

The night was warm. We were in flight
from walls and stifling air.
And where we stopped, I felt the wind
move fingers in my hair.

The crickets' chirp, the rustling trees, gave
quiet to the place.
I turned my head to watch the moon drip
silver on your face.

So still the night, you might have heard
the clamor of the crowd
Of thoughts that came unbidden, made a
noise unseemly loud.

You heard, for when you turned your face
to mine, the din was stilled.
And suddenly, the night and I with glowing
silence filled.

—RUTH ALBERT COOK

(Second)

Democracy: Southern Style

(Rondeau)

"They lynched a boy," he said to me,
"Way down in Brownsville, Tennessee,
And all because he tried to do
Just what the law entitled him to—
The right to vote like you and me.

"But his skin dark did chance to be;
And in this land of liberty,
His color was of the wrong hue.
They lynched a boy!

"And yet we of this land so free
Shout loud and long and gloriously,
'Equality; our laws are true
And just for all, not for a few!'—
But in our land of liberty
They lynched a boy!"

—FRENISE H. LOGAN

(Third)

Bewilderment

I do not know my way about yet, in my
native land;
Sometimes I sit amid the crowd when
often I should stand.

Ofttimes when I attend a show and
"America" is played
I sit there in the balcony unmovable—
afraid.

For I'm not sure equality, justice, and
liberty,
The things included in the song are meted
out to me.

And even though I stand erect when "Stars
and Stripes" pass by

D. SEBASTIAN SCHIFFER

Mr. Schiffer, winner of The Crisis poetry contest for the Dr. Charles Edward Russell prize of $10 is 21 years old and a native of San Francisco, California. He was graduated from Polytechnic high school, Los Angeles.

He has been in the army for seven months and has advanced to the grade of Private First Class, Specialist 4th Class. He is chief clerk in Headquarters 11th Battalion, and at the time of writing (April 2, 1941), was stationed at Fort Warren, Wyoming, with the 4th Q.M. Training Regiment. He was training fifteen draftees for clerical work.

Before entering the army Mr. Schiffer was the Pacific Coast Middleweight Champion under the name of Nate Jackson. He has been writing poetry and other pieces for a number of years and contributes occasionally to the weekly, "The Northwest Enterprise" published in Seattle.

I know deep down within my soul my
standing is a lie.

I'd like to be wholeheartedly devoted to
my land,
How can I, when blind hatred makes me
sit, while others stand?

—J. MASON BREWER

(Fourth)

Untraveled Mill Road

(A Villanelle)

There is no traveling by this way.
The mill hands do not come and go.
They've cut the logs and spent the pay.

A stranger in these parts might say,
"The main road's tarred I see, and so
There is no traveling by this way."

But we who stay here every day
Will shake our heads because we know
They've cut the logs and spent the pay.

Where wheels once sank in red hill clay
Saplings and running-cedar grow,
There is no traveling by this way.

What need is there to hope or pray?
The fox will bark at cawing crow,
They've cut the logs and spent the pay.

This mill road is the sad display
Of loneliness that pine winds blow:
There is no traveling by this way
They've cut the logs and spent the pay.

—HERBERT CLARK JOHNSON

(Fifth)

The Stars Are Thinking of You

The stars are thinking of you tonight:
Why else would they brightly shine?
Peeping down through the willow tree
They witnessed the promise you gave
to me,
To be forever mine.

The stars will be lonesome for you tonight;
Why else would they twinkle so?
They all were unhappy as could be
When you told them goodnight as you
did to me,
We hated to see you go.

The stars will be dreaming of you tonight,
Why else would they shed their beams?
Between sky above and earth below
They'll carry my thoughts wherever you
go,
Into the land of dreams

The stars are loving you tonight,
Why else would the star dust fall?
They'd leave their places in the sky,
We're always ready, the stars and I,
To answer to your call.

—ESSEX G. JENKINS

(Sixth)

Wood Secret

Something is in the wood
That draws me there each night
And keeps me there for good
Or bad or both. It might
Be scent of wet leaf musk,
Or honeysuckle smell
That lingers after dusk,
I have no way to tell.
Each night my mind says, "Stay,
See what the dawn will show."
But my heart says, "Run away,
It is too much to know."

—HERBERT CLARK JOHNSON

(Seventh)

Un-Byronic Resignation of a Country School Teacher

I caught the feel of sunset on the land . . .
I lingered long into the afterglow . . .
The wild wind ran her fingers through my
hair . . .
The night hypnotic would not let me go . . .
And soon I had no wish to understand
Why rural roads were not my thoroughfare,
I who still fondly love the cold tall lights
Of city streets . . . and noise-infested
nights!

(*Continued on page* 171)

From the Press of the Nation

THE CRISIS *reprints this editorial because it believes it to be an effective statement of one philosophy for the Negro in the present emergency. The several purely personal references to Dr. Patterson are inseparable from the* Defender's *discussion, but* THE CRISIS *does not concur in them.*

Editorial of the Month

President Patterson of Tuskegee

Chicago, Ill., *Defender*

In his recent address before the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers at Montgomery, Ala., President Frederick D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute was highly critical of the widespread agitation for the abolition of segregation and discrimination in the armed forces of the nation, especially. He said:

> "We are asking for a lot of things that are not of immediate importance though they aim at noteworthy ideals. One that is of apparent import to a lot of people is that we should be integrated in companies and regiments with white soldiers, claiming that the discrimination of the nation's soldiers on the grounds of color and race is a breach of democratic procedure.
>
> "All that is admirable, but what we should be concerned with at the moment is an opportunity to serve in any capacity."

It is to be regretted that so harmful and indefensible a view should be given public hearing precisely at the time when the black masses everywhere are struggling for the extension of democratic procedure. If abolition of segregation and discrimination whether in the army, the navy or anywhere else is "not of immediate importance" to the Negro, what else is?

Is it not through discrimination and segregation that the Negro has been denied the opportunity to share the blessings of our system of government? Has not segregation reduced our people to the unenviable status of political mendicants at the shrine of democracy? Is it not discrimination that freezes the black man at an economic level little above starvation? Is it not discrimination that often forces us into the courts so that we might retain those rights that are guaranteed under the Constitution?

To us and even to the fair-minded and the far-sighted whites, these issues are important, fundamental, and will always be if democracy is to function as an alternative system to slavery, oppression and absolutism. We press for a solution now, because our pleadings carry scarcely any weight in times of national peace and prosperity. This is a propitious moment. America needs national unity; it needs men to arm and defend itself effectively against the dictators. It will grant demands now that it would not think of granting in ordinary circumstances. Concessions made today to our people will remain in the basic economic and social pattern of the country. Our demands must be pressed now or never.

Dr. Patterson feels that we should be concerned with an opportunity to serve in any capacity. In this he seems to be following the logic of his predecessor. What we object to is the unwarranted classification that places an arbitrary limitation upon the type of service we are called upon to render. We do not want to be restricted to labor battalions, mess attendants, porters, and janitors in the armed forces and the defense industries. As citizens of the United States we want to serve not "in any capacity," but in every capacity. We cannot compromise with prejudice on the ground of national emergency.

If the demands we are making are at all consistent with the guarantees of democracy; if they are "noteworthy ideals," then, we see no reason why an insistence upon them should be postponed. Are the people of India waiting for peace before demanding their political and economic freedom from Britain? No. They are pressing the British government now. Why? Because they know that John Bull, like Uncle Sam, shows little concern about the plight of the neglected, indigent masses in times of peace.

Dr. Patterson argues that we should not "proceed by revolutionary tactics and reach ideals by upsetting the whole existing structure." Surely this is empty rhetoric meant presumably for the consumption of narrow, reactionary Alabama white folk. This part of his speech bears a striking similarity to Martin Dies' hysterical fulmination. There is nothing revolutionary whatsoever in a plea, however strong for common democratic rights. The right to petition the government or any authority is one of the cardinal provisions of the U. S. Constitution. If to proceed by such tactics is revolutionary, then the framers of the Constitution were less concerned with the permanence of our existing political structure than the Tuskegee pundit.

"We should stop fretting too much about discrimination," declares the Tuskegee president, "and focus our attention on getting an opportunity on a basis of equality." This admonition is truly remarkable for its glaring inconsistency. How are we to attain this "opportunity" if we refrain from taking legitimate steps against the very form of discrimination that denies us our claims? We have been fighting long enough to realize by now that equality will not be handed to us on a silver platter. But Dr. Patterson would want us to stop fretting about discrimination and stop agitating for the abolition of segregation.

Doubtless the doctor's belief is predicated upon incantation or black magic as a medium to invoke the long sought democratic "opportunity." Has not our attention been focussed long enough on "getting an opportunity on a basis of equality?" What we need now is militant, determined action, and above all a leadership that will not endanger the vital and vested interests of the Negro people by compromising with the forces that promote and uphold segregation and discrimination.

The present policy of the defense industries of not employing qualified Negroes in their rapidly expanding plants is unjust, undemocratic and constitutes a serious threat to our national unity.

We believe the existence of this . . . policy presents an immediate challenge to the entire American press.

We believe that this unjustice to 10% of our population, this threat to our national unity is a definite challenge to the Catholic press of America which is demonstrating ever increasing interest to the cause of interracial justice. Here is a specific program that should enlist the vigorous support of Catholic editors. . . . *Interracial Review,* New York, N. Y.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

S. R. 75 Hearing

As this issue went to press, Senator H. H. Schwartz of Wyoming had set April 23 tentatively as the date for the preliminary hearing on Senate Resolution 75, which provides for a full investigation of the discrimination against the Negro in the whole national defense program. It may be that the preliminary hearing will not be held April 23, but it is certain to be held shortly thereafter.

47 Branches Picket Defense Industries

On Saturday, April 26, 47 branches of the N.A.A.C.P., located in the principal industrial centers, picketed plants in their areas which have discriminated against the Negro in employment. Posters were used and leaflets distributed.

Pickets carried signs containing the following slogans:

Let's Blitzkrieg
the Color-Line

It's Our Country Too!
We Want Work

Total Defense
Total Democracy
Jobs For All

Down With Jim-Crow
in National Defense

If We Can Fight for Democracy
We Can Work For Democracy

A Bullet Draws No Color Line
But Bullet Makers Do

Smash the COLOR LINE
Speed the ASSEMBLY LINE

Not Hitlerism
But Americanism
Jobs For All

No Ersatz Democracy

Texas White Primary Hearing Held April 18

A hearing on the Texas white primary case, Hasgett vs. Werner and Blackburn, was held in Houston, Tex., April 18 before Judge T. M. Kennerly of the U. S. district court for the southern district of Texas.

Proceedings began last January when Sidney Hasgett, a qualified voter, filed a complaint that he was denied the right to vote in the Democratic primary August 15, 1940, after he had appeared at the polls with his poll tax receipt. Denial was based on the fact that he is a Negro.

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who with W. J. Durham of Sherman, Texas, is acting for Hasgett, issued the following statement:

"The question involved is whether or not the Democratic primary in Texas is 'state action' within the meaning of the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. We maintain that the right to vote includes three distinct steps; (1) qualifying to vote; (2) selection of candidates; and (3) the actual election. The supreme court has held that Negroes cannot be prevented from taking part in steps one and three. We maintain that the selection of candidates by a primary election pursuant to state statutes is just as much a part of the election machinery of the state as the actual election.

"We will show at the hearings that the primary elections are made and held pursuant to statutes which are followed. That the Democratic party in Texas is a loose-jointed organization with no set rules or regulations except the statutes which they follow.

"We will also show that since 1859 all Democratic nominees have been elected in Texas with two exceptions. We will show further that the primaries use the county clerk and other state officers in these primary elections and follow the state machinery.

"We will also show that Negroes in Houston formerly voted in primary elections prior to 1923 when they were barred by statute."

The defendants maintained that the primary is a private institution and is not a "state action."

Equal Salary Suit Filed in Nashville

To equalize teachers' salaries in the public schools of Nashville, Tenn., a suit was filed April 12 in U. S. District Court against the Nashville board of education by Harold E. Thomas.

Z. Alexander Looby of Nashville, member of the national legal committee of the N.A.A.C.P., is attorney for Thomas.

Camp Lee Treatment Examined by N.A.A.C.P.

Acting on complaints from the Kansas City, Mo., branch that Negro draftees were being ill-fed, mistreated, and insulted by white officers at Camp Lee near Petersburg, Va., the national office secured a prompt investigation by a soldier whose name cannot be divulged (a former active officer of an N.A.A.C.P.), who reported (1) that there was no truth in the report of mistreatment by white officers, but on the contrary, officers and men got along very well; (2) that there was some friction between Negro soldiers and white civilians in the area; (3) that there was some basis for complaint about food for a short period of time before additional mess halls were completed, but now the food is much better and the service greatly improved.

F.D.R., Stimson, Asked to Probe Soldier Lynching

In strong letters to President Roosevelt and Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has urged complete investigation of the death of Private Felix Hall, of the 24th Infantry, located at Ft. Benning, Ga.

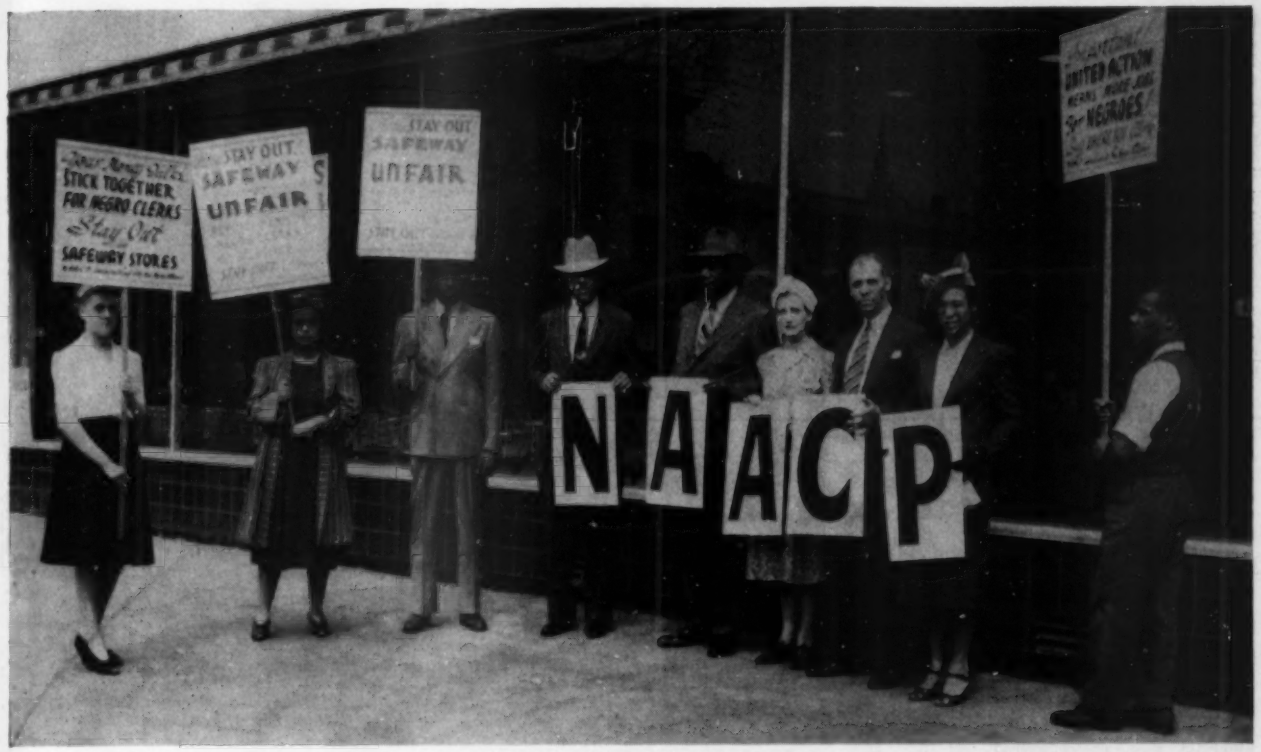
The letter asked "action deemed necessary to discover and punish the perpetrators of this crime."

The Association branded the killing of Private Hall as a lynching, and in its letter to Secretary Stimson said:

"We feel certain that the War department does not wish the crime of lynching to be perpetrated on the reservation of one of its largest forts, in connection with the training of an army supposedly for the defense of democracy.

To President Roosevelt, the N.A.A.C.P. wrote that failure of the proper authorities to seek out and punish the lynchers "would be a further blow at the morale of colored Americans who are being urged daily to give unstinted support to the national defense effort."

Pass your copy of The Crisis on to a friend



The District of Columbia branch voted to take action by picketing the Safeway grocery store because of the refusal of the management to employ Negroes. Shown in the picture are, l. to r.: Joyce Fenimore Stone, Mrs. Mary Brice, Louis Ross, Dr. C. Herbert Marshall, president of the branch, John Bates, Mrs. Gertrude B. Stone, Rev. R. W. Brooks, Mrs. Esther T. Marshall, and William Audry

Branch News

California: Protesting the announcement of the North American Aviation Co. president, that Negroes would not be employed as aircraft workers, the mass meeting sponsored by the Merced branch suggested cancellation of government contracts with the company unless it offers Negroes equal job opportunities in all divisions.

It is reported that E. Frederic Morrow thrilled the Santa Monica Bay branch meeting in April at the First AME church. The branch has launched its annual membership drive, and Mrs. Essie Carson is campaign manager. Mrs. Blanche Carter heads the ladies group, and Manuel Murrell leads the men. At the end of the campaign, the losing group will fete the winners at a turkey dinner. J. Allen Reese is president, and Mrs. Beulah Reed is Secretary of the branch.

The Salinas branch is proud to report that is it a member of the Salinas Chamber of Commerce, owning a membership plaque, and as such, is entitled to attend meetings of the chamber.

Colorado: The Denver branch membership campaign got under way on April 14 to continue until May 2, with a goal of 500 members. General director of the drive is Harold Brown, Sr.; Howard Jenkins, Jr. is assistant director and Oscar Blanchard is auditor. The branch is divided into three divisions. The "Reds" are under the management of Mrs. H. C. Lowry and Mrs. Dovie Steward, Mrs. W. Quinchette, and Elizabeth Mayo. "Blues" are managed by Carl Bundy, with Wendell Peters and T. J. Woods as captains. The "Whites" are managed by Mrs. Hattie Starr, with Mrs. Daisy Jones and Mrs. Lavina Lee as captains. W. F. Turner is president of the branch.

Connecticut: The Hartford branch has completed its membership campaign with the addition of about 700 new members. Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary, conducted the campaign.

Officers of the newly-chartered Norwalk branch are: George Olmstead, president; Nathaniel Hopkins, vice-president; Mrs. Carrie E. Smith, secretary; Z. H. Askew, treasurer. The executive committee includes: Mrs. W. L. Curtis, Mrs. R. F. Griffen, Henry Middleton, Mrs. Mabel Zeigler, Mrs. John Lewis, Rev. W. C. Walter, John Hammond, John Carlos, Samuel Morrow, John F. Wilson, Rev. W. C. Street and John Erdes.

District of Columbia: The D. C. branch which sponsors a radio hour every Sunday over station WINX, from 9:30 to 9:45, reports the following programs for May: May 11, Mrs. Isadore W. Miles speaking on "The New Approach to the Negro in Literature;" May 18, Program by Prince George County branch of the Association; May 25, NAACP news broadcast. William H. Hastie is chairman of the radio committee.

Florida: The Tampa branch conducted its membership campaign in April having set its goal at 1000.

Indiana: S. R. Redmond, president of the St. Louis, Mo., branch, was guest speaker for the Evansville branch in April at the Lincoln high school. He said that barring Negroes from the Mechanic Arts school and denying opportunity to prepare for the defense industries was un-American. He urged all groups to work together to obtain recognition and better conditions in employment. J. O. Eaton, made a response to Mr. Redmond's talk, and Dr. W. F. Denby outlined the purposes of the Association. Other participants in the meeting were Robert Anglin, president, Adrian Bell, and J. W. Holder, editor of the Evansville Argus.

Illinois: Dean William Pickens discussed "The Negro, Too, Fights to Defend America," at a March meeting of the Springfield branch. Mr. Pickens also spoke at a meeting of the American Business club in the St. Nicholas hotel, on "The Negro and the American Defense Program." He was introduced by Simeon Osby, secretary of the local branch.

Iowa: The Keokuk branch closed its membership drive with a program featuring an address by S. Joe Brown of Des Moines. The program included several musical selections. W. W. Gross made the closing remarks and the Rev. A. O. Birchenough, gave the benediction.

Kentucky: The "Wings Over Jordan" choir was presented to two appreciative audiences in March, by the Harlan branch. President J. J. Jackson of the branch said that it was a successful first effort to have an outstanding program in Harlan.

Minnesota: Morris H. Simmons and David Nins were principal participants in a recent meeting of the Duluth branch. Music was furnished by the Gary Young Peoples Trio and Mrs. Alice Carlson.

Missouri: The Mexico branch, Charles Duncan, president, completed its membership drive in April. Dean Pickens spoke at the Second Baptist church on March 20

to an appreciative audience. At the close of the meeting Dean Pickens and members of the branch were entertained by the directors of the Mexico Funeral Home. At the close of the drive, directed by Irwin Woolery, Mrs. Fannie Teague received a prize for the most individual memberships brought in the first night, and also for being the captain of the team reporting the largest number. Rev. C. N. Reid received first prize for reporting the largest number of members for the entire drive. Prizes were awarded by the vice president, E. Perry Wrightstell.

Chairman N. A. Sweets of the membership drive of the St. Louis branch and Josie Hawthorne, chairman of the women's division report a successful campaign under way in April.

Dean Pickens spoke to a capacity audience at a mass meeting of the St. Joseph branch in March. Just before the address, Mr. Pickens officially crowned the "Queen" of the branch, Miss NAACP. The contest was won by Martha Robinson who brought in $32 out of the total $63 collected in the interest of the work of the branch. In second place was Beatrice Chambers. Preceding the meeting Mr. Pickens was the dinner guest of the executive board members, at the home of the John B. Jones.

Kansas: More than 3,000 people attended the protest meeting in March sponsored by the Kansas City branch. The meeting was an outgrowth of the announcement by J. H. Kindleberger, president of the North American Aviation Co. that Negroes would not be employed as aircraft workers, but that employment would be available for janitors, etc. Principal speaker at the meeting was C. A. Franklin, editor of *The Call*. Mayor Don C. McCombs of Kansas City, Kansas, read a copy of his letter addressed to Mr. Kindleberger asking him to reconsider his announced policy. Other speakers were James A. Hamlett, Jr. Dr. A. P. Davis, Myles C. Stevens, Carl Johnson, R. B. Brown and Dr. William M. Blount. A collection of $359 was made to defray expenses of a representative to be sent to Washington to work toward removal of discrimination against the race in all defense industries.

New Jersey: Newly elected executive committee members of the Atlantic City branch are R. G. Robinson, Dr. A. E. Forsythe, Mrs. V. Meade, Lois Puckham, O. T. Davis, Mrs. M. L. Caution, L. M. Wright, Robert Nelson, R. T. Lockett, A. Johnson, J. E. King, Frances McLean, Mme. Sara S. Washington, C. M. Cain, and Dr. H. D. Marshall. Roscoe Carroll is president of the branch.

The New Brunswick branch held its annual rally in April at the Elks' Auditorium, and Dr. D. W. Anthony delivered the main address. Music for the evening was under the supervision of Mrs. Eva Bentley. Other participants of the meetings were Mrs. Castella Ransom, Rev. J. L. Lee, Rev. C. H. Shelton, and John Gibbs.

New York: The Albany branch held its March 2 meeting at the B. T. Washington Center, with Mrs. G. D. Bowks presiding. The branch and friends were invited to attend the showing of the Federal government documentary film "The City" on March 22. There are $300,000,000 in State funds available for low cost housing, and the Albany branch has been active in the sponsoring the formation of an Albany Housing council, representing various organizations of the city. A meeting was held April 22 for this purpose. At an earlier meeting the branch voted that a donation be sent the national office for the Spell case.

PANCAS of the Chattanooga, Tenn., branch. First row, l. to r.: Mrs. E. M. Chambers, Mrs. P. A. Stephens, Dr. P. A. Stephens (quadruple PANCA), Prof. W. J. Davenport (triple), Mrs. W. O. Woods, Mrs. W. F. Singleton, and Mrs. W. J. Davenport (triple). Second row: H. E. White (quadruple), W. O. Bryson, Mrs. J. M. Mondul, Rev. P. D. Kingins, T. O. Gordon, O. Lowery, and Prof. T. D. Upshaw, Jr. Back row: E. G. Henderson and Prof. Thirk E. Cravens. PANCAS not pictured are H. F. Taliaferro, Mrs. G. F. Warren, Merlin Harper, Frank Jones, Mrs. W. J. Astrapp, L. D. Collins, and Mrs. Coban Lee

The Bronx branch reports its recent activities as following: (1) Funds were collected and sent in for the Spell case. (2) In February they investigated a complaint regarding a sign saying "White only" in a beauty parlour, resulting in the removal of the sign and an apology from the owner. (3) A skating rink which was being investigated to determine its policy toward Negroes burned down in the midst of the inquiry.

The Jamaica branch is still hard at work in trying to improve conditions of that area in the matter of crime and juvenile delinquency. At a meeting in March Albert T. Kenny, president of the Globe Civic Association said that because of improper police protection, South Jamaica has become the laughing stock of Queens borough. Other speakers on

Float featured by the Salinas, Calif., branch in the parade of the Colmo-Del-Rodeo last year. Mrs. Agnes Tebo portrayed "America," and Billy Greenwell and Rosie L. Palmer were "Young America"

ELECT YOUR DELEGATES TO HOUSTON!

Branches and youth councils are urged to elect their delegates to the 32nd annual conference of the NAACP, which meets in Houston, Tex., June 24–29, inclusive. The Reverend A. A. Lucas, president of the Houston branch, writes that his city is preparing to entertain the greatest conference in the history of the NAACP. Northern, middlewestern, and eastern branches who plan to send delegates *by train* through St. Louis should notify the national office as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for special cars out of St. Louis.

The Big Topic at Houston Will Be

THE NEGRO IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

BE THERE!

the same subject were Dr. J. A. Singleton, president of the branch, Rev. A. C. Clarke, and Gustavius Bayne of the South Jamaica Neighborhood Association. Following the meeting a telegram was sent to Mayor LaGuardia demanding additional police protection and the assignment of Negro members of the force to duty in that area.

Dean Pickens struck an optimistic note in the future of Negro equality in the nation when he spoke before the Rochester branch in April, and pointed out that "if democracy is working slowly, it has worked more steadily toward the goal of equality than any other form of government." Mr. Pickens also said that the reluctance of the Army and Navy to enlist Negro services will decrease as war dangers increase. The Rochester branch, the Rev. Dr. Max Knapp, president, is trying to organize a speaker's bureau composed of white and colored speakers for use in promoting interracial programs in the schools. The Bennett College choir under the direction of Dr. Nathaniel Dett was presented on April 29 at a concert sponsored by the branch.

A new branch has been formed at Port Chester and boasts 45 members. John Moore is president, and the membership committee includes Ransom Banks, Rosabelle Jones, Fred Griffin, Bertha Wilkinson, Hattie Andrews and Grimshaw Boozer.

Oklahoma: The Ada branch reports the election of the following officers: Arthur Russell, president; Luther Russell, vice president; Wesley Allen, treasurer; Charles Johnson, secretary, Rev. M. Dilworth and Rev. M. Bolden, chaplains, and Mrs. Doretha Russell, publicity. The executive committee includes Rev. W. W. Mayle, chairman, Mrs. Sarah Johnson, Mrs. Lula B. Watson, Mrs. Georgia Daniels, Mrs. Bertha Walker, and Mrs. Mary Jones. At the mass meeting where their charter was presented, addresses were made by Dr. M. S. Epperson and Luke Dodds. It is expected that a youth council will be formed soon.

Pennsylvania: The Media branch started its membership campaign on April 17, with Dean Pickens as guest speaker. Campaign captains are: Ann Young, Cora Warren, Mrs. Ophelia McCall, Mrs. Ethel Wynn, Orace Murry, C. E. Moat, and S. Paul Lytle. The branch is still seeking employment for Negroes at the Lansdowne Iron and Steel Co., located in Morton, Pa. Madison S. Jones was the guest of the branch and the Morton-Swarthmore Youth Council on March 21.

North Carolina: The Asheville branch recently adopted resolutions praising the Buncombe County Medical society for its efforts to improve hospitalization conditions affecting Negroes.

Virginia: The membership campaign of the Richmond branch was conducted by Ella J. Baker of the national office, in April. Dr. J. M. Tinsley is president of the branch and Wiley A. Hall, chairman of the drive, which has 1,500 for a goal.

Youth Council News

Essay Contest

The first annual essay contest, sponsored by the youth division, closed on April 1. Original plans called for the contest to close on March 15 but due to the number of queries received just prior to the original closing date it was decided to extend the time limit.

Youth from all walks of life participated. In some cases classes in English made the project an assignment. It is planned to make this contest an annual affair in connection with the Association's youth program.

The manuscripts are now being judged and the names of the successful contestants will be announced at the mass meetings on the evening of May 3, throughout the country, marking the official closing of National Negro Youth Week.

Youth Week

The first observance by the N.A.A.C.P. of National Negro Youth Week will take place April 27 through May 3. This is the first time that such a project has been instituted by the Association and advance information indicates that the week will be a success.

The aim of this observance is to

Coronation of Miss NAACP, Queen of the St. Joseph, Mo., branch, by Dean William Pickens. Left to right: Gwendolyn Brown, Dorothy Howard, "Queen" Martha Robinson, Mr. Pickens, Helen Hayes and Beatrice Chambers.

focus attention of the nation on the needs, aims, achievements and aspirations of Negro youth all over the United States. An extensive program has been prepared for the entire week and will include such events as: National Negro Youth in the church; sale of tags; high school speaking day; dramatic presentation of "Place: America"; social events and the holding, on the final day of the week, of a mass meeting at which time important speakers will lead discussions. At this meeting the winners of the essay contest will be announced.

There will be an extensive project which will underlie the whole theme of the week. This will take the form of a nation-wide survey in regard to the participation of the Negro in the national defense program. A full report of this survey will be submitted by each community observing this week at the final mass meeting. Copies of the report will be sent to Washington and to the national office of the N.A.A.C.P.

New York Council

New York Youth Council No. 1 of the N.A.A.C.P. officially opened its membership drive with a luncheon at the Mimo Professional Club, 132nd street and Seventh avenue, on Saturday afternoon, February 15.

Enid Jervis, president of the council, gave an account of the histoy of the group from the time of its organization, 11 years ago. She was followed by Lionel Barrow, president of the New York branch who spoke on "Membership." Mrs. Vivian Carter Mason addressed the group regarding, "Youth Today and the Social Problems." She said that Negro youth must use every means of communication—magazines, newspapers, radio, etc.—in order to break down all racial prejudices against us."

James E. Allen, president of the New York State Conference of Branches of the N.A.A.C.P. and chairman of the Boy's Work Committee of the Y.M.C.A., talked on "The Negro in National Defense." Hubert Dillworth, baritone, accompanied himself while he sang two Negro spirituals. The affair was closed with the singing of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

Officers of the council are: Enid Jervis, president; Edna Carter, vice-president; Ruth Whitefield, recording secretary; Inez Wynters, corresponding secretary and Edna Scott, treasurer. Miss Amanda Kamp is the adviser for the group.

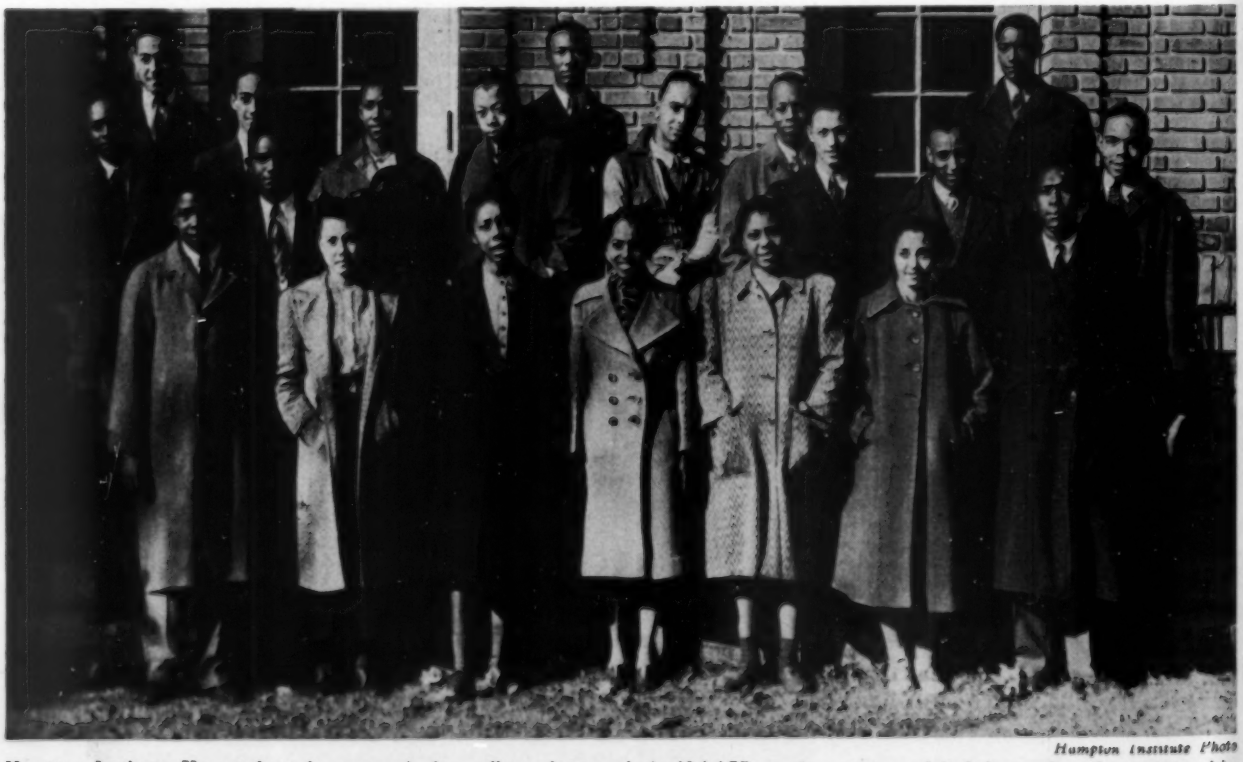
Philadelphia

The Philadelphia, Pa., youth council has taken an active part in endeavoring to get as much support for S.R. 75 as possible. A recent communication from the group states: "The Council has on hand seven letters from the members of the Senate Investigating Committee and sponsors of S.R. 75, thanking us for our interest in writing to them and also letting us know that they will endeavor to use all means of procedure to induce other Senators to support the investigation for a democratic style."

In March the Pennsylvania State Leaders Council of the N.A.A.C.P. voted to purchase quantities of book matches and have imprinted upon them phrases dealing with discrimination in the national defense program. These are to be distributed throughout Pennsylvania so that the public may be informed of our attitude concerning present conditions. They will be sold through the Council. Buttons are to be used also.

A state youth speakers bureau has been set up and will appear before churches, Ys, civic and political clubs. Recently 10 members spoke to various organizations in one day.

A popularity contest was sponsored between the Ambler and Norristown



Hampton Institute Photo

Hampton Institute, Va., students have organized a college chapter of the NAACP on the campus and include members from many cities. Pictured above are, first row, l. to r.: James Whitehead, Amy Joseph, Dorothy Reeves, Ophelia Penn, Elizabeth LeBar, Anita Stone, and Charles Smallwood. Second row: John Taylor, Emanuel Bertrand, Melvin Parson, Andrew Speller, George Hicks, William Kearney, Anthony Cotton, Otis Harris, Walter Yarbrough. Back row: Cornelius Matthews, Cyril Fabio, Arthur J. Carter, and James R. Cheathan, president

groups. Funds derived from this venture will be used to carry on an active program.

Literature has been sent to labor groups, churches and other organizations with large followings so that they may learn of the treatment of the Negro in the defense program. Over 5000 pieces have already been sent out and members have been assigned to cooperate with the N.Y.A., A.F. of L., C.I.O. and Civil Liberties Committee. This venture is being coordinated by Miss Carolyn Davenport.

Detroit

The Detroit, Michigan, youth councils of the N.A.A.C.P., through the Central Controlling Council, has been busy for the past month formulating plans for a membership drive in May, under the leadership of Parch Wynche.

On Tuesday, April 1, the celebrated strike against the Ford Motor Company was instituted at River Rouge, Michigan. The Youth Division, under the leadership of Eugene Hall, called an emergency meeting at midnight in order to formulate plans for the avoidance of a race riot. Organization plans included the use of a sound car which patrolled the entire plant, asking the Negro men within the plant not to be used in the capacity of strike breakers and to come out until the question was settled. Placards and throwaways, voicing this same message were circulated in churches, stores and dwellings.

Active members of this committee were, Theodore Smith, Ruth Jackson, Charles Harris and Horace Sheffield.

Under the direction of George Hawkins, contacts are being made with various industrial firms holding government contracts and union officials in order to ascertain their opinion regarding the Negro and his participation in the National Defense Program. The never ending task of securing jobs is continuing. Much time is spent enlisting men and boys for participation in the defense program.

Elizabeth Simmons, Chairman of the "Conference Travel" for Houston, Texas has created plans whereby many of the Detroit youth will be able to attend the 32nd Annual Conference of the N.A.A.C.P., which will convene in Houston in June.

The Youth Council walked away with the Second Prize of $15 in the Annual Delta Jabberwock, as presented by that sorority. The play, presented by the group, was "Place: America." Special permission was received from the author for its presentation.

Negro in Brazil

(*Continued from page* 160)

tation of the latifundia of their own country. Portuguese colonial civilization therefore demanded special economic and geographical conditions. It was the civilization of an agrarian society, and its existence depended upon the possession of extensive territory and a large servile population for its cultivation. A further condition, as Freyre points out, was that the oppositions within the social fabric between high and low, rich and poor, should not be excessive, in order that the populace could be kept within bounds by custom and rules of conduct for each class and group. At first the Portuguese colonizers in Brazil depended upon Indian labor, but later with the gradual emancipation of Indian slaves, they began to rely more and more upon Negroes. Just when the first Negroes were introduced into Brazil no one seems to know, but by the sixteenth century they had begun to form a large segment of the population. They were at first worked in the mines, but with the rise of cane culture they began to be employed more and more on the large sugar plantations of the North, a section of Brazil which roughly parallels in climate and soil our own South. Life on these *fazendas,* as our author never fails to remind us, parallels in many respects life on the cotton plantations of our own South.

There was the *big-house,* known as the *casa-grande,* inhabited by the master, his family, and his servants; and not far away would be the compound *(senzala)* of the slaves. These big-houses were really feudal principalities, that of the Costa Fereiras in Amazonas was larger in area than England, Scotland, and Ireland combined. The whole life of slave-holding Brazil, economic, social, and political, was centered around the master's house. The big-houses were banks, forts, schools, hospices, churches, and cemeteries all in one. "The social history of the big-house, therefore, is the intimate history of almost every Brazilian; the patriarchal and polygamous system influenced his domestic and conjugal life; it influenced his life as a child; and it reduced his Christianity to a religion of the family seasoned with the superstitions of the compound." The big-house represented the most characteristic tendency, in contrast with the adventurousness of the *bandeirantes,* of the Portuguese: to

(*Continued on page* 174)

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HARPER & BROTHERS

Governor Lehman Signs Bill Barring Jim Crow By N. Y. Defense Plants

Albany, N. Y.—Employment of Negroes in New York State industries engaged in defense contracts was guaranteed in legislation passed by both houses of the Republican-controlled legislature and signed by Governor Lehman April 18.

The measure, introduced by Republican Senator Walter J. Mahoney of Buffalo, amends the civil rights law and penal law to make it unlawful for any person, firm or corporation engaged to any extent whatsoever in the production, manufacture or distribution of military or naval material, equipment or supplies for the State of New York or for the Federal government, to refuse to employ any person in any capacity on account of the race, color or creed of such person.

Legislative leaders explained that this was another step toward the integration of Negroes into industry. These same leaders pointed out that the Mahoney measure encountered no opposition whatsoever in either the Senate or the Assembly.

W.P.A. Makes Survey of Negroes in Little Rock

How do Negro citizens here earn their living; what is their average income; in what business are they engaged; how many Negro citizens are being cared for by welfare agencies; how many need such care but are not getting it?

These are some of the questions answered in the "Survey of Negroes in Little Rock and North Little Rock," another publication on racial affairs compiled by a State Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration. The Urban League of this city, directed by Ira E. Sanders, sponsored this survey. The completed study probes into the work and earnings of Negro wage earners; businesses within the racial group; the professions; education; religious life; recreation; housing; health; juvenile delinquency; crime; social service and race relations. Remedies which should have far-reaching effects are suggested in each instance.

U.S. Employment Service Places 76,000 Negroes

Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt April 13 announced that more than 76,000 Negro workers found jobs in January through the nation-wide chain of State employment offices coordinated by the United States Employment Service. According to Mr. McNutt, Negro placements for January accounted for 21.1 per cent of all the jobs filled by the State Employment Services—an increase of more than 10 per cent over December 1940.

Army Seeks Doctors

Selective Service registrants who are qualified physicians and surgeons are urged to apply for commissions in the Medical Corps Reserve, it was announced April 7 by National Headquarters, Selective Service System.

State Directors of Selective Service, it was said, have been asked to request local boards to communicate with all such registrants and encourage them to seek admission into the Reserve Corps instead of inducting them as selectees for military training.

Race Relations Institute

The Institute of Race Relations and Minority Problems under the auspices of the Committee on Race Relations and the American Friends Service Committee will be held July 6–26, inclusive, at the Westtown School, Westtown, Pa. The director of studies will be Dr. Otto Klineberg of Columbia University.

New Bibliography Published

A new bibliography entitled "The Negro, A Selected List for School Libraries of Books by or about the Negro in Africa and America," has been published by the State Department of Education of Tennessee under the auspices of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Free copies may be obtained from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Letters to the Editor

Dunham Is Vulgar

To the Editor of The Crisis:

I was so shocked at your putting on the front page of your magazine last month the inexpressibly vulgar picture of that dancer, in a sensuous dance of the lowest type, in an especially vulgar attitude, that I do not wish to renew my subscription.

Why not hold up to your people the highest and best? My own maid, who is an evangelist among her and your people, says such kinds of dances hurt the young people *tremendously*—all the young girls trying to posture and attract the men—her own niece and her group being affected.

You know your own people so well, or should, and know that dancing and sensuous appeal takes too much Negro interest as it is—that the ideals to be built up are those of industry, neatness, study, perseverence—none of which qualities are evident in this vulgarity. Haiti and Liberia show the dangers to be avoided. Why should not the American Negro try for a higher type?

With regret that I am forced to take this decision as to continuing your paper,

Katherine S. Day

April 8, 1941

(Editor's Note: We have replied to the above letter expressing regret at losing a subscriber to The Crisis and saying in part:

"I hope you will permit me to say that one item in your letter never fails to puzzle colored people who are at work on the broad and varied front of race relations. That is the citation of the opinion of your maid. Doubtless she is a good maid or you would not have her in your employ. She has certain opinions on certain questions. Those opinions, as personal opinions, deserve the same respect that all personal opinions deserve. But it is difficult for me to imagine your taking the opinion of a white maid, or cook, or gardener, on the sociological importance of the cover of a magazine.")

Likes The Crisis

To the Editor of The Crisis:

Referred to The Crisis by two friends in connection with a specific question concerning war aims and the realization by the vast working mass of their own latent power in this regard, I have just finished reading the latest issue, March, 1941. Am exceedingly pleased with it. I am white and interested in Negro problems. The Crisis appeals because of its punch and clarity. In some respects it seems to me it could be more forceful but a large number of factors are to be considered which, I believe, would tend to negate my contentions. Dorothy Canfield Fisher's letter on page 89 contains in the latter part of its second paragraph some elements to which I have reference. Possibly my general apathy toward Dorothy Canfield Fisher may explain this but only to a degree.

Incidentally, your commendable editorial (p. 71) "Nazi Plan for Negroes Copies Southern U.S.A." does a nice piece of work as rebuttal to the honorable Mrs. Fisher."

G. J. Nollet

March 20, 1941

Book Review

***GLADIOLA GARDEN.* By Effie Lee Newsome. Washington: Associated Publishers, 1941. $1.50.**

This is an extremely charming book of verse for young children. Here are delicious impressions of ladybugs, crickets, fireflies and every little creature of the garden. The "picture-rhymes" have an exquisite simplicity. For instance:

Bees

The bees buzz on like small brown cars,
Now that the days are sunny.
They travel on no roads at all,
Yet they arrive—how funny!

The illustrations by Lois Mailou Jones are equally charming. Negro children of all colors, like flowers in a "gladiola garden," dance and play through the book. Negro mothers will appreciate this fresh and beautiful treatment of nature.

Josephine Schuyler

A view of the 40th anniversary banquet given in honor of Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown (arrow), at the Twelfth Baptist church, Boston, Mass. in February, a tribute of appreciation for her service. Dr. Brown has completed forty years of service to Palmer memorial institute, at Sedalia, N. C., and about 250 friends attended the dinner in her honor

Poetry

(*Continued from page* 162)

And deep within me do I know so well
That far beyond the quaintness of this place,
There is no greater, nor a nobler task,
Than bringing light to some dark hungry face.
What lies beyond . . . I cannot really tell . . .
But while I hope, dear God, for what I ask . . .
I thank you for this wide uncultured plain,
The smell of hay . . . the taste of rural rain!

—Herbert Eli Dickson

SCHOMBURG CURATOR ON HAITIAN VISIT

In line with the efforts of the United States Department of State and related institutions to foster the development of cultural relations among the American Republics, Dr. L. D. Reddick, Curator of the Schomburg Collection will spend the month of May in Haiti. He will travel as a representative of the New York Public Library and will make a survey of the cultural resources of the Republic of Haiti. He will attend the inauguration of the new Haitian president Monsieur Elie Lescot which takes place May 15. Short visits will be made from Port-au-Prince to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the Republic of Cuba. The chief purpose of this whole endeavor is to arrange for the exchange of books and other literature between libraries of the United States and those of Haiti and other island republics.

Stooges for Ford

(*Continued from page* 161)

strike, had imported and employed several hundred—perhaps as many as a thousand—Negroes from outside Detroit for the express purpose of fighting the union when the strike was called.

At any rate when the strike was called about midnight April 1, most of the workers came out of the plant, but about 1,500 Negroes (together with certain maintenance men) remained inside.

On the morning of April 2 these Negro non-strikers sallied forth from one of the main gates of the plant and staged a brief but bloody battle with the union pickets. Thereafter they retired into the plant and remained there under the direction of Ford company police.

Many sensational stories were sent out by newspaper reporters to the effect that this squad of Negroes was armed with sharpened steel weapons, was "running wild" inside the plant and was prepared to do violence to any union man who happened to be about.

The squad was fed by the company and it is reported that members were being paid on a 24 hour basis at the rate of one dollar an hour.

All efforts to persuade them to leave the plant proved unavailing. They were addressed by Federal Conciliator Dewey but paid no heed to his speech. The union pledged that there would be no attack on the men if they left the plant.

The Detroit youth council of the NAACP and the senior branch under the leadership of Dr. J. J. McClendon distributed thousands of leaflets and operated sound trucks urging Negro workers not to be strike breakers.

Because of the publicity on the Negro squad hired by Ford, tension between the races rose to such a pitch that a serious clash was feared. At this stage Walter White, NAACP secretary, went to Detroit and added his appeal to the others in an effort to ease the situation. He issued the following statement:

Tough Decision

"The Ford strike faces the Negro with the toughest decision he has ever had to take in the matter of jobs and his relations with his fellow workers and employers. Widespread discrimination by some employers, even in national defense industries finaced by taxation of Negroes as well as whites, has driven the majority of Negro workers to the ragged edge of existence. Henry Ford has not only hired more Negroes than any other Detroit employer but has given some of them the chance to rise

(*Continued on page* 173)

College and School News

(*Continued from page* 149)

Hampton Institute has been granted $7500 by the General Education Board to aid in setting up an extensive student personnel and guidance system.

Principals and supervisors of Negro schools will again be offered the "Clinic of Administration and Supervision" at the Hampton Institute Summer School, according to William M. Cooper, its director.

The 28th annual Ministers' Conference will be held the week of June 23. It annually attracts over 400 clergyman from all over the country.

Students in Hampton's Division of Trades and Industries are now building the first two of a series of three units for the 73-acre Tabb Farm adjoining the campus. They are a two-story Dairy Farm and a one-story Pen Barn, to be completed this summer.

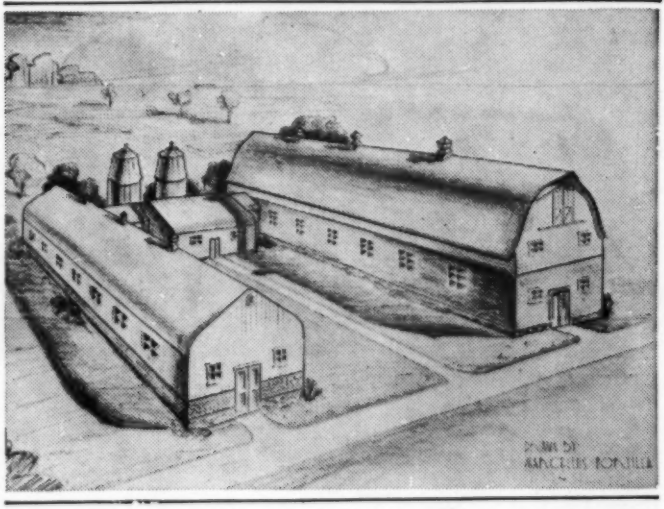
Philippa Duke Schuyler, internationally known child prodigy, pianiste and composer, appeared in a concert on April 17, under the auspices of the student Bachelor of Science club.

Hampton students are from 34 States, Africa, Haiti and West Indies.

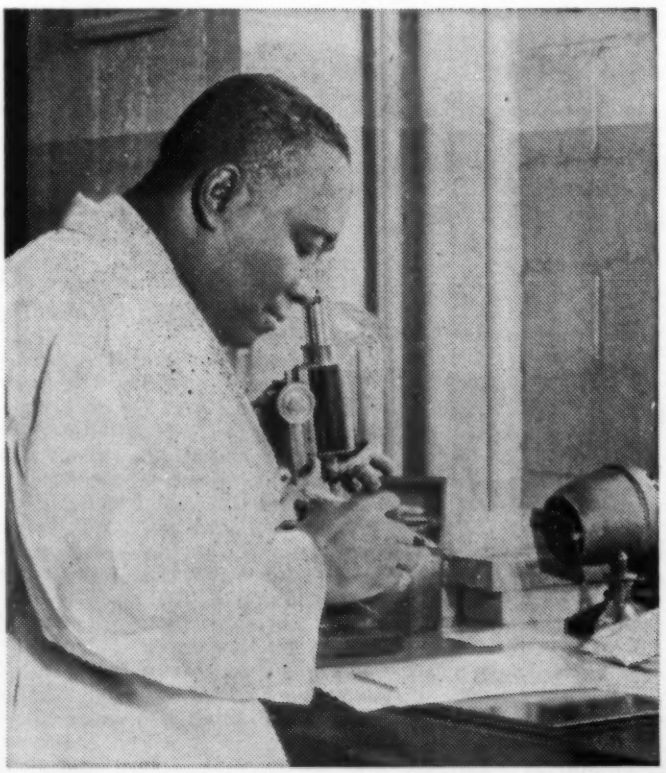
Meharry Medical College will lead the Negro medical field next month when it graduates the first Negro woman anesthetist in medical history, Catherine Carson Dandridge. Leading white medical schools train their anesthetists only nine months while Meharry's course lasts an entire year. Miss Dandridge is a native of Youngstown, O., and attended school in Newcastle, Pa. She entered Meharry's nursing school in 1936. Meharry is trying to raise $1,500,000 by July 1st in order to get a $3,500,000 endowment fund from the General Education Board.

Dr. W. S. Quinland, professor of pathology at Meharry, has been named a member of the editorial board of the Punjab Medical Journal, Banga, Punjab, India, the only medical publication in northern India. Dr. Quinland is also a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the National Medical Association, and the author of many publications in his field.

Hampton Students Begin Building Modern Barns



Dr. Quinland of Meharry



Gestapo in Memphis

(*Continued from page* 154)

serve indictments against those who should be found guilty of violation of the Federal Civil Rights Statute."

To date, Colonel Woodcock has not returned to Memphis, nor is it likely that he will. There is, therefore, no end to this or a thousand similar stories. When the final chapter is written for them all, it will have embraced years of intense, unremitting efforts by interracialists to vindicate principles of democracy in the North as well as in the South. There is no city in the entire country where Negroes and whites work side by side in the harmony and friendship enjoined by Christian teaching. The mission undertaken by Christian workers in the interracial field, drawing on the spiritual for inspiration and guidance, is already reaping its first hard-won fruits. But the major obstacles confronting these earnest workers here

are still ahead. It is not the Crumps or the Boyles who will man these barriers, but hostile John Smith of the South and his indifferent brother in the North. These are the Goliaths whom David will one day meet, and, God helping, vanquish.

Stooges for Ford

(*Continued from page* 171)

above the menial ranks, which contrasts sharply with Knudsen's General Motors.

"The attempt to use Negroes as a club over the heads of those who wish to organize themselves in unions in the Ford plants, however, is a dangerous move in times like these. It may make for increased racial tensions which would hurt the defense program. I regret that a few colored workers, in their desperation for jobs have lent themselves to staying in the River Rouge plant. They are not helping themselves, the cause of the Negro, nor labor relations generally. Especially when every one knows that the Ford company could evacuate the plant in fifteen minutes if it really wanted the thousand or so white and Negro workers out of there. I again plead with the men in the plant to leave, to remove this source of friction, and to let the issue be peaceably settled by the vote which has been ordered by the NLRB.

"Gratitude of Negro workers to Henry Ford for jobs which other plants have denied them is understandable. But I want to remind Negro Ford workers that they cannot afford to rely on the personal kindness of any individual when what the worker wants is 'justice'. Death comes eventually to every one of us. It will some day come to the present heads of the Ford industrial empire. No Ford employee, colored or white, knows what the future heads of Ford may do. Honest industrial democracy in the Ford and other industries of our country offer the only real guaranty of present and future security for workers.

A. F. of L. Role "Sorry"

"The A. F. of L. has played a sorry role in the strike in its futile attempt to dupe Negro workers who are well aware of the constitutional clauses, ritualistic practices, and other devices by which a number of A. F. of L. unions maintain 'lily white' unions which shut Negroes out of jobs. The UAW-CIO has conducted itself admirably in trying to remove the color line in this strike. It needs to do much more to wipe out distrust based on sad experiences of the past with union labor which Negroes have had and in teaching white labor that it will never be free as long as black labor can be exploited. If the UAW-CIO wins the right to represent the Ford workers, as now seems inevitable, it has a golden opportunity to demonstrate to Negro workers everywhere in the country that some labor unions are straight on the race question.

"In view of statements made by the UAW-CIO in this particular strike and in view of the stated policy of the CIO nationally, opposing racial discrimination, I am confident it will take advantage of this opportunity."

On April 11 an agreement was

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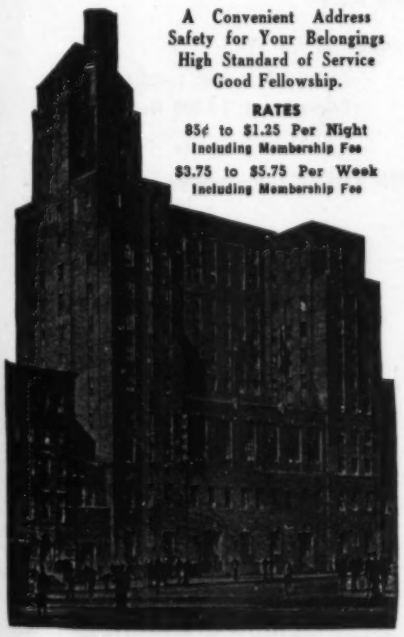

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LEGAL DIRECTORY

Responding to frequent inquiries, THE CRISIS carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. THE CRISIS does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to THE CRISIS.

CALIFORNIA

Marshall Denton, Jr.
3429 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Telephone: Adams 5544

Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.
1105 East Vernon, Los Angeles, Calif.
Telephone: Century 2-9078

Walter Lear Gordon, Jr.,
4071 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Telephone: ADams 6000

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Louis L. Redding
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Telephone: 3-1924

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Raymond Pace Alexander
1900 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
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reached by the representatives of the Ford Motor company and the union in the presence of the Federal Conciliator and Gov. Van Wagoner whereby the men were to return to work and the CIO would be recognized as the bargaining agent for its members in the plant prior to the election ordered by the N.L.R.B.

Thus for the first time in its 38 years of history the Ford Motor company bargained with union labor and the attempt on the part of the company to use Negroes as stooges to break the strike and to create ill-feeling between the races failed.

Negro in Brazil

(*Continued from page* 169)

establish permanency in a patriarchal form.

Influence on Family

The great influence of the Negro on Brazilian family life came through the big-house. With the easy promiscuity of the plantation these houses were often hardly more than harems. It was by no means unusual for the children of the compounds to be the mixed offsprings of their masters and their masters' sons. Many a white son in love with a *mulatinha* discovered that both had the same father. One Portuguese traveler of the period sardonically observed: "The most productive element of slave property is the fecund belly." Thus did a master add both to his profits and his pleasures. Responsibility for Brazilian licentiousness must be divided about equally between the sexual licenses of slavery and historic Portuguese libertinism. "There was no other country, perhaps, where the obscene anecdote was more highly appreciated," writes Freyre. "A gross, plebian eroticism dominated all classes of Portugal to the extent that a man who did not use obscene words or gestures was considered effeminate. Similar conditions obtained in Brazil where Lusitanian eroticism found fertile soil in the lascivious conditions of colonization."

All forms of sexual corruption were common; what with the precocious depravity of the *meninos* (sons of the master) and the docile willingness of *escravas* to open *as pernas ao primeiro desejo do sinhômoço*. The sexual tenor of the big-house and Brazil at the time is very succinctly summed up in the proverb "Branca para casar, mulata para—negra para trabalhar." Such looseness naturally resulted in the spread of venereal diseases, especially syphilis. "It is customary to say," remarks our author, "that civilization and syphilization go together, but Brazil seems to have been syphilized before she was civilized." The poor physical quality of the Brazilian noted by many early travelers was not the result of miscegenation, as they would have us believe, but of "syphilization" and poor dietary habits.

Miscegenation Beneficial

Miscegenation on the whole was highly beneficial to the Brazilian people. It created a new racial stock better adapted to the climate and soil than either parent stock; it enabled the Brazilian to fuse the best elements of African and Portuguese culture; it softened racial antagonisms; and it helped to make the Brazilian national character and spirit what it is today. Southerners traveling today in Brazil always remark the Negroid aspect of the Brazilian masses and the Negroid features of their culture. The vast masses of Brazilians are, however, a hybrid mixture of Indians, Negroes, and whites. The upper classes are on the whole relatively "white," but the masses are predominantly Negro and Negroid. Just how many Negroes and Negroids there are in Brazil no one of course knows. The various population estimates place the number of whites at about fifty per cent of the total population, with the various half-breeds constituting the other fifty per cent. Negroes, that is more or less pure blacks, constitute about fourteen per cent of this total. We must remember, however, that American and Brazilian definitions of *Negro* and *white* are quite different. In America a white man with Negro ancestry is classified as *black*; while in Brazil it is quite possible for a black man with white ancestry to be classified as white. Both definitions are idiotic, but the Brazilian practice is certainly more humane.

It is of course impossible in a review to give the reader an adequate idea of the immense sweep and intelligent interpretation of materials which is the *Casa-Grande*. All that a reviewer can do is to hint at the germinal nature of the book, its humor, its liberalism, its freedom from prejudice, and its immense thanks to the Negro for what he has done for Brazilian culture.

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—Policies in force: 1,826,647
—Employment: 10,000 Negroes

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